Delta State

THE MAGAZINE FOR DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Spring 2007

Dave "Boo" Ferriss Museum Opens

Crawford Center Dedicated

plus:

Delta Belles *in Review*

The Year of Health & Wellness *in the Delta*

ALUMNI

Have you talked about Delta State today?

Mary Claire and Rebekah have been making their statements on campus. We need you to make yours, too.

Rebekah
-Senior
-Marketing
-Cleveland, MS

Mary Claire
-Junior
-Marketing
-Cleveland, MS

Recommend a prospective Statesman or Lady Statesman today!

Let our Recruiting & Admissions Office know at admissions@deltastate.edu.

Delta State University

1.800.GO.TO.DSU
www.deltastate.edu

Delta State University

Delta State Alumni Magazine
Spring 2007 Issue 2

The Delta State Magazine is published by the DSU Alumni/Foundation with assistance from the Office of University Relations and Sports Information, Box 3141, Cleveland, Mississippi 38733, E-Mail: alumni@deltastate.edu 662-846-4660

President .....Dr. John Hilpert

Alumni-Foundation:
Executive Director.....Keith Fulcher

Chief Financial Officer.....Deborah Cox

Director of Annual Giving .....Missy Pearce

Director of Development .. Jeremy McClain

Director of Alumni Affairs.....Vicki Fioranelli

Administrative Assistant .....Ann Giger

Bookkeeper .....Sharon Kuhn

Alumni Secretary.....Sharon Krugler

Development Secretary .....Sheryl Stephens

Annual Giving Secretary .....Dameon Shaw

Office of University Relations:
Director .....Rori E. Herbison

Photographer .....Bill Moses

Graphic Designer .....Laura Fleeman

Secretary.....Gloria Enriquez

Athletic Media Relations Director Matt Jones

Board of Directors
Delta State University Alumni Association:
Daye Dearing, president; John Cox, president elect; Mandy Gardner, secretary/treasurer; Bill Greenleaf, past president; Pat Chambless, Ryan England, Will Simpson, Frank Sibley, Charles Pittman, Carrie Boykin, Dwaun Warmack, Peyton Warrington, George Bassi, Duncan Baird, Nancy Gerrard, Karen Swain, Edward Pope, Dr. Wayne Lee Jr., Chelsea Shepherd, Deborah Brick, Cory Donnelly, Lynn Weaver, Mary Luther, Lauren Lewis, Michael Aguzzi

Board of Directors
Delta State University Foundation, Inc.:
Frank Sibley, president; Judson Thigpen, vice president; Mike Neyman, secretary/treasurer; James A. Newquist, past president; Louis Baioni, finance committee chair; Scott Coopwood, development committee chair; Anne Weissinger, trusteeship committee chair; Danny Abraham, David Abney, William Alford, John Brewer, Glenn Brown, Hunter Cade, Jeff Ross Capwell, Kevin Cox, Harold Corbin, Billy Dorgan, Sr., Carl Easley, John Hamner, Mark Hargett, Tim Harvey, Archie James., Tom Janoush, Peter Jernberg, Ed Kossman, Jr., Jack Kyle, Derek Miles, Ned Mitchell, Doug Murphy, Billy Nowell, Sam Polles, Carol Puckett, Nan Sanders, Charlotte Smith Hodges, Jeff R. Tarver, Jim Tims, Lynn Varner, Brian Waldrop, Janet Webb, Jeanne Walker

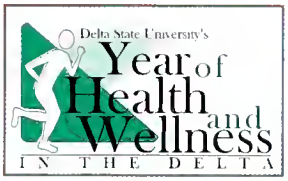
Design and Layout by
Coopwood Communications, Inc.
Cleveland, Mississippi

contents

SGA changes administration

Delta State Student Government Association outgoing President Emily Jennings (at right), a senior political science major of Clinton, presents the president's gavel to the newly elected Student Government President, Deborah Brick, a junior art major of Oxford. The presentation of the gavel and the inauguration of elected Student Government Association officers were held recently at the Lena Roberts Sillers Chapel on the Delta State campus.

features



page 10

page 14

page 22

4 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

5 CAMPUS BRIEFS

10 HEALTH & WELLNESS

14 THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

16 TOP SECRET

18 "BOO" FERRISS MUSEUM

22 DELTA BELLES IN REVIEW

23 DEVELOPMENT

25 ATHLETICS

28 WITH THE CLASSES

Mark your calendars...

- **Pig Pickin'**
  Saturday September 15
- **Homecoming**
  Saturday October 27

Great expectations for 2007

Dear Alumni and Friends,

What an academic year this has been! We have addressed more issues and packed more accomplishments into a few short months than would normally fill twice the span of time. Several items are covered in these pages, but so many things have happened that the limited space just could not contain all the copy. Here's a sampling of news from the campus:

• The *Delta Health Alliance*, a collaborative effort in which Delta State University was among the founding partners, has grown to a $25 million budget with services provided to individuals and organizations throughout the Delta and beyond.

• We searched and found outstanding replacements for our Chief Financial Officer, our men's basketball coach, our football coach, and our Athletic Director.

• We successfully completed our institutional accreditation reaffirmation process, and we completed the first phase of the accreditation renewal process for our College of Education. Each of these situations involves dozens of faculty and staff and hundreds of hours of their involvement.

• Over a period of months, we worked through an institutional image study and marketing plan. Now we are making decisions about the breadth (and budget) of this new effort. We have also completed a strategic plan in the area of information technology.

• Renovation and construction projects are underway across the campus, and we dedicated the new Crawford Center at the baseball field this spring. We are making good progress with a new classroom structure in Clarksdale, and we have restructured the management of the higher education center in Greenville.

• *Health & Wellness in the Delta* is our campus-wide theme for the year. We use these extended themes to give special visibility to various aspects of our mission. Several related activities engage us each month. During 2005/06, we celebrated the *Year of Cleveland.*

• We've addressed a number of issues on campus with broad-based initiatives, including the adoption of a new merit pay system and an affirmation of commencement traditions at Delta State.

• The second Women's Leadership Conference occurred in March. Several hundred women who are making significant contributions to our state spent two days on our campus hearing well-known, well-regarded speakers and participating in programs designed for the participating professionals.

Add to all of these developments the exciting title run made by the Statesmen football team that ended with a number three ranking in the nation, and you can see that we've had some interesting times over these past few months. Plan a visit to your *alma mater.* You will enjoy the vibrancy of the campus.

Sincerely,

John M. Hilpert
President

A dedication for a dedicated Senator

Dr. Lynn Varner, Director/Chair for The Thad Cochran Center for Rural School Leadership and Research, smiles moments after unveiling the plaque bearing Senator Thad Cochran's name. The Senator looked on with Delta State University President, Dr. John Hilpert.

This past fall, Delta State University dedicated The Thad Cochran Center for Rural School Leadership and Research with a ceremony honoring the United States senator inside the atrium of Kent Wyatt Hall.

The senior senator has long been a proponent of education in the Magnolia State, and the dedication seemed most fitting, as Dr. John M. Hilpert, Delta State University's President, directed, "Senator Cochran, your work on behalf of our state makes all of us proud and grateful.

"We are particularly thankful for the attention you give to the universities and to our students. Delta State and the other seven public institutions are better in all dimensions – teaching, research, and service – because of you and your purposeful public service. This day is not only about you and for you, it is because of you," Hilpert observed.

Housed in the College of Education, The Thad Cochran Center for Rural School Leadership and Research works to prepare educational leaders who can address the unique challenges of the Mississippi Delta region, by providing the knowledge necessary to improve leadership effectiveness, teacher quality, and thus, student achievement. Dually, the Center promotes a vibrant learning community committed to the development of exemplary educational leaders.

Its Masters' in Educational Leadership program remains a vital cog to the Center. First conceptualized in 1997 by a group of nation-wide, high-powers in education, the Program has since earned recognition as winner of the 2006 Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Award for Best Practices; been featured in Education Week and the Delta Business Journal; and probably most significantly, received honors from Stanford University, after an intense national study, as one of the top eight leadership programs in the nation.

As Delta State's seventh president noted, "Most often, Senator, these ceremonies occur in front of a building or a suite of offices that will bear your name, but today we will name a center that is too big in its scope and mission to be identified only as a fixed place. Of course there are offices and classrooms in our College of Education where some of the work happens, but the Thad Cochran Center for Rural School Leadership and Research embraces all of the Mississippi Delta as its place. Beyond the Delta, the rural schools of this nation will benefit from the efforts and expertise of our faculty and students, as well as the hundreds of Delta educators who work with us."

In response, the Senator offered, "I am deeply grateful and appreciative of your kind words today. It is no secret; education is a personal love of mine. Growing up in a school teacher's household, education was so important and so valued. We must continually work to strengthen our state's education system, and this center is an important first step, a step in the right direction."

Students continue to aid in rebuilding efforts

Holiday giving was the theme of English 492: The Literature of the Holidays under the instruction of Allan "Chip" Mitchell, as 12 of his students worked in the Gulfport area from December 11-22 building and rebuilding homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Students spent their time clearing debris, constructing houses and working with a local chapter of the Boys and Girls Club. As part of the class, students were also required to keep a detailed journal of their experiences, as well as interview hurricane survivors.

Alum and retired faculty donate sculpture

Dave Heflin, retired assistant professor in the division of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, recently returned to Delta State to deliver a sculpture he designed and created titled "Continuity of Creativity."

Heflin dedicated the sculpture to former Delta State band director, the late Ralph Franklin and wife, Dot, director of the Delta Belles from 1957-1973. The Delta Belles were among America's first dancing majorettes and performed from coast to coast under Franklin's direction. The Franklins were pioneers and innovators in the arena of show band halftime performances, as they introduced fireworks and lights to their performances.

Heflin, himself, was a tuba player in the Delta State Band from 1960-62 under the Franklins.

The sculpture of a trombonist was inspired by DSU alumnus, Doug Scarborough and his solo technique delivered during halftime performances from 1986-1990.

Heflin and his wife, Brenda, reside in Louin, where he enjoys designing and sculpting yard art.

Heflin's sculpture is on display in the lobby of Zeigel Hall on the Delta State campus.

Dave Heflin and Dot Franklin with the recently donated sculpture titled "Continuity of Creativity."

Two-time Grammy Award winner rocks out on campus

Ashley Cleveland rehearsed with Ol' Skool Revue while on campus. Pictured l. to r. (front row) Cole Furlow (Jackson), Cleveland, Greg Cobb (Memphis); (back row) David Cunningham (Greenville), Travis Metcalf (Grenada), Matthew Wood (Cleveland), Audie Aderholt (Clarksdale) and Phillip Carter (Clarksdale).

Award-winning vocalist Ashley Cleveland rocked out on the Delta State campus recently in a pair of appearances sponsored by the Delta Music Institute (DMI) and the Delta State Wesley Foundation.

Blending rock, blues, gospel and folk with her distinct open-tuned guitar playing, Cleveland has forged an unmistakable sound that has won her two Grammy Awards, three Dove Awards, a place on countless year-end Top Ten lists and a legion of devoted fans. Christianity Today.com voted Ashley its top Female Vocalist of 2006.

Cleveland is one of Nashville's most in-demand session singers, having performed on over 300 albums, for artists including Emmylou Harris, John Hiatt, Jars Of Clay, Don Henley, Amy Grant, Faith Hill, Delbert McLinton, Etta James, Rodney Crowell, Pam Tillis, Patty Smyth and Michael McDonald.

She is also one of the original members of the Women in the Round, a songwriter's performance group founded by DMI director Tricia Walker and featured often at Nashville's famous Bluebird Cafe.

While on campus, Cleveland gave a master class at the Delta Music Institute and rehearsed with the Ol' Skool Revue band.

The Delta Music Institute is a first step towards a broad program in Media Arts Production. It began with a generous donation by Fred Carl of the Viking Range Company in 2003. The focus of the DMI is to provide students with a broad and thorough education in the technological, business, and creative areas of the music industry.

Alum honored by State legislators following his promotion to COO for UPS

Alumnus and recently promoted COO of UPS, David Abney earned extremely high praise, as he was recently recognized on both the State Senate and House of Representative floors in Jackson. Concurrently, Abney's employer, United Parcel Service of America, Inc. (UPS) was honored with its own resolution, recognizing "its 100th year anniversary and commending the company for its contributions to the citizens of Mississippi."

The resolution, initially authored by Representatives Linda Coleman and David Norquist of Bolivar County in the House and in the Senate, Delta State graduate, Senator Bob Dearing and Senators Buck Clarke, Willie Simmons and Johnnie Walls of Bolivar Country, honored Abney "on being named Chief Operating Officer of UPS, for his interest in the future of young Mississippians and for his continued support of Delta State University."

In response to the recognition, Abney recognized "all those that made today possible," including the legislators, the Delta State staff and administration and the UPS family in attendance. "I have been fortunate to live the American dream," he explained. "I have been blessed to have a wonderful family."

He continued, "I am grateful to the state of Mississippi and Delta State University for taking a chance on a kid in 1974 whose hair was as long as his dreams were big. I was the first in my family to attend college and would not have without that scholarship, and I would most certainly not have had any of the successes I have had without Delta State University. They gave me the confidence I needed to succeed in the business world."

David Abney stands with fellow Delta State University graduate, Senator Bob Dearing, as the resolution honoring his achievements is read on the State Senate floor.

Watson crowned Miss DSU

Following an afternoon and night of competition, a panel of judges crowned Coriss Watson Miss Delta State University. A Grenada native, Watson, 19, is a sophomore music education major at Delta State. For her talent, she played "Prelude in G Minor" by Fredric Chopin, on piano.

In addition to the crown, she was also awarded the Career Services Interview Award. Miss Delta State University will compete in the Miss Mississippi Pageant in July.

Virginia Tech victims remembered at Delta State

Hundreds gathered on the south end of the quadrangle to remember the victims of the Virginia Tech tragedy, as Delta State accepted Virginia Governor Timothy Kaine's invitation to join the State of Virginia in its day of mourning with simultaneous observances at noon (EDT), April 20.

Delta State's program consisted of tolling of the hour at 11 a.m. and the playing of "Amazing Grace" by the carillon; as well as opening reflections by President Dr. John M. Hilpert. "This is a time when families come together. Now our national family should come together to reflect, pray, encourage, and support," President Hilpert offered.

Dr. Phyllis Bunn, Virginia Tech alumna and Delta State professor of office administration, reflected on her "Thoughts of Virginia Tech." She remembered, "When I think about Virginia Tech, I think of the pageantry of Hoakie football, the smell of lilacs and the picnics on Henderson Lawn."

Incoming Student Government President, Deborah Brick, a junior graphic design major of Oxford, read a letter on behalf of the Delta State University student body, addressed to the Virginia Tech student body. Following the ceremony, the letter was mailed to VTU Student Government President.

Dean of the College of Business, Dr. Billy C. Moore offered a closing prayer, followed by the Delta Chorale's performance of "Calling My Children Home."

Delta State's memorial observance was one of many held across the nation.

Fall commencement celebrated, 390 graduates including 3rd generation graduate

Delta State University celebrated its 80th Fall Commencement inside Walter Sillers Coliseum this past December. Friends and family, along with Delta State faculty and staff, gathered to honor the accomplishments of the 390 graduates.

Delta State President, Dr. John M. Hilpert, opened the morning service, offering, "Each of today's graduates has reached a milestone, and we are here to recognize their achievements. On behalf of the faculty and staff, I extend congratulations to all graduates."

On the day, 13 educational specialist degrees were conferred, while 148 master's degrees and 229 bachelor's degrees were awarded through the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business, the College of Education and the School of Nursing.

Graduating senior, Leila Weissinger, an interdisciplinary studies major of Rolling Fork, offered, "Delta State has been such an incredibly special place to me and my family. The sense of community you feel at Delta State just warms your heart. Every time you step on campus, you get that feeling. It delivers."

With the completion of her degree in December, Leila became a third-generation graduate of Delta State, as her mother, Anne, and grandmother, Leila Wynn are graduates of the institution.

Her mother, Anne reflects, "The very first time I ever stepped foot on the Delta State campus was in the summer of 1975. My mother had completed her course work for her teachers' certificate at Delta State and she thought my sister and I would benefit from some summer school. I had just finished my first year at Newcomb College and needed a math course. My sister who had just graduated from high school also attended the first summer session with me.

"All those years ago, I had no idea that more than 30 years later Delta State would continue to be such a big part of my life, as well as the life of several of my family members. My two sisters, Maggie and Martha, and I - all three - earned our master's of Education degree at Delta State," she continued.

"The small classes, dedicated professors, and supportive atmosphere were a tremendous part of our daughter's success here at DSU. All of these members of my family benefited greatly from the wonderful opportunities here at Delta State and we are proud of our association with DSU. I have to say that, other than my church work, Delta State is more important to me than any other organization in which I am involved," she concluded proudly.

Three generations of graduates: Anne, Charles, Leila Weissinger and Leila Wynn.

Forever Friends

Two members of the Class of 1941 continue the friendship they formed at Delta State Teachers College (DSTC) in the early 40s. During World War II, Capt. Viola "Pinky" Brown Sanders (left) was commanding officer of the WAVES and served as the highest ranking female in the armed forces. Frances Fox Hardin (right) worked for Representative Jamie Whitten in Washington D.C. and then taught school in Calhoun City. Sanders and Hardin recently met at the home of Minnie Fox Richter, '44, in Greenwood to reminisce about their days at DSTC.

Thornell retires after 32 years, moving on to North Carolina

Delta State Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. John Thornell officially announced his retirement after 32 years of service to the university.

Thornell has accepted an offer to become the chief academic officer at North Carolina Wesleyan University. He is set to begin his new post July 1.

"Dr. Thornell has given Delta State many years of strong leadership and we are deeply grateful for his service and commitment," President Dr. John Hilpert said. "We are obviously disappointed to be losing him and wish him and his family the best in their move."

Of his decision, Thornell offered, "Delta State University has been a very important part of my life and my family's life for the past 32 years, so it is with mixed emotions that I made this decision. I will be saddened to leave the colleagues I have grown so close with over the years, but am excited by the great opportunity that awaits me in North Carolina."

16-year legislature vet receives degree from Delta State

Representative Bobby B. Howell recently had one of his life-long goals accomplished, as the Mississippi legislator received a degree from Delta State University. The Kilmichael resident attended Delta State in the summer of 1959 through the fall of 1961. At a recent ceremony in the State's Capitol, Dr. John M. Hilpert, President, presented Howell his degree from Delta State. A pharmacist by profession, Howell received his pharmacy degree from the University of Mississippi. He has served in the House of Representative since 1992, representing the 46th district of Attala, Carroll, Grenada, Leflore and Montgomery counties.

Six honored for their scholarly efforts

On a day President Dr. John M. Hilpert always calls "a highlight" and "an opportunity to recognize the faculty for the key role they play at this university," the Foundation continued its recognition of dedicated and professional faculty with the annual announcement of the recipients of the Excellence in Teaching, Research and Service Faculty Prizes.

Dr. Phyllis Bunn, professor of office administration; and Dr. Clifton Wingard, associate professor of mathematics were honored with the Excellence in Teaching Prize. John Ford, assistant professor of English, and Dr. Nina Baghai-Riding, associate professor of Biology and Environmental Science, were honored with the Excellence in Research Prize; while Margaret Tullos, professor of Social Work; and Emily Weaver, university archivist and assistant professor of library services were honored with the Excellence in Service Prize.

During the award ceremony, Hilpert offered, "I congratulate Phyllis, Clifton, John, Nina, Margaret and Emily on their accomplishments. They are a great example. I also thank the Foundation for its continued support and vision."

(l. to r.): Emily Weaver (Service); Phyllis Bunn (Teaching); John Ford (Research); Nina Baghai-Riding (Research); Clifton Wingard (Teaching) and Margaret Tullos (Service).

Award recipients received a plaque, a clock and a $5000 check honoring their accomplishments.

Keith Fulcher, Executive Director of the Delta State University Alumni-Foundation, concurred, "The Delta State University Foundation Board of Directors are pleased to partner with the University in recognizing faculty members who are dedicated to their profession and who excel in the areas of teaching, service, and research. The Foundation's mission is to help provide private support to the University and the Board commends Dr. Hilpert and Dr. (John) Thornell for their decision to honor outstanding faculty."

Nine set to retire on July 1

Front row, from left: Sherry Bailey, Evening Shift Supervisor, DSU Student Health Center; Dr. Stella B. Wear, Professor of Mathematics; Kay C. Ware, Payroll Administrator; ; Vicki Fioranelli, Director of Alumni; (back row, from left) Dr. Darvin E. (Duke) Barnes, Chair and Professor of the Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation; Albert C. Prewitt, Assistant Director of the Physical Plant; Paul L. Lindsey, Director of the Physical Plant; and Dr. John G. Thornell, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will retire at the close of the 2007 academic year. Not pictured: Dr. Edward R. Bahr, Professor of Music.

International Business Symposium proves successful for second year

Delta State University's International Business Symposium proved a success, yet again.

Now in its second year, the symposium was presented through the College of Business and Division of Management, Marketing, and Business Administration and was sponsored by David Abney and wife, Sherry, both Delta natives who currently reside in Atlanta.

A 1976 graduate, Abney earned his bachelor's of business administration from Delta State, and today sits on the University's Foundation Board. Recently elevated to Chief Operating Officer (COO) and President of UPS Airlines, he highlighted this year's program which featured top-ranking international business professionals.

Dianne M. Stokely, President and Chief Operating Officer (COO), FedEx Customer Information Services, Inc.; and Diana M. Leonard, Senior Vice President, Orange Business Services, France Telecom Group also spoke at the two-day event.

Abney's goal of the event, as he later said, "is to ensure the youth of Mississippi and the youth of the world grow up aware of the international opportunities available to them. I grew up thinking anything north of Memphis was international and I am determined today's generation don't fall victim that way of thinking."

It was the Abney's generous gift that also helped to initially launch Delta State's International Business and Development program almost two years ago. Designed to prepare students for the constantly expanding world of business, the International Business and Development program aims at providing students with the necessary skills and understanding to succeed in the international business arena.

Of his continued support of not only the program, but the Symposium too, Dr. John M. Hilpert, Delta State's President offered, "David Abney has been generous with not only financial support, but also time. He has helped us every year, offering us access to speakers we would not otherwise have.

"This symposium is an eye-opening experience to our students," Hilpert continued. "I think David and his wife, Sherry, have established a model that works, and I hope other alumni are inspired to replicate it. I know it would make a tremendous difference to Delta State University and the region."

David Abney shared a laugh with some Delta State students following the International Business Symposium. He and his wife, Sherry, sponsor the symposium.

Former football player serving in Iraq

Former football player and 2003 alumnus Keith Pate, a native of Nettleton, is serving a tour of duty in Iraq with the U.S. Army and is attached to the HHC 1-198th Task Force in Amory, Miss. Sergeant Pate is responsible for all Human Resources needs of 700 soldiers. He handles all legal, financial, morale and welfare issues, in addition to taking part in convoys and patrols as a driver, gunner or combat medic. Pate was the long snapper on the 2000 National Championship Football team. He and his wife have a nine-month-old daughter, Anna Thomas.

Redlin welcomed to VP for Finance post

Delta State University introduced Greg Redlin as the University's new Vice President for Finance and Administration in late December. The position was left vacant after Billy Morehead accepted a position in the College of Business, as the Chair of Accountancy, Computer Information Systems and Finance.

"I am extremely proud to be a member of this great University and lovely community," Redlin offered. "I want to thank everyone for the kindness they have shown me and my wife, Ro Ann, since arriving."

Redlin comes to the Delta after 15 years of service at the University of South Dakota, where he served as the Vice President for Finance & Administration responsible for business affairs and physical plant management. Several major building projects were completed during his tenure, including a $13 million roof replacement on an indoor football stadium, a $4.5 million and journalism/communications building renovation, a $2.2 million enrollment services building renovation and the construction of a new $36 million School of Medicine.

The son of Don and Virginia of Watertown, S.D., Redlin is married to the former Ro Ann Cameron. The couple has two children, Kathleen, a junior at the University of Minnesota Morris, and Daniel, a freshman at the University of Minnesota.

Alumnus named by Tyco as President for Southeast Asia

Laird Hamberlin, of Cumming, Ga., was recently promoted by Tyco Fire and Security Services to President of Southeast Asia, a division comprising 14 countries, annual sales of $150 million, and over 12,000 employees. Hamberlin, a native of Yazoo City, earned his BBA in 1987.

"My office is in Singapore, which is a long way from my birthplace of Yazoo City and from Greenville where I lived most of my life," said Hamberlin. "Most recently I was part of the team that established the first ADT Central Monitoring Centre in China and Taiwan, which now enables us to offer a complete range of electronic security solutions to Chinese consumers."

Tyco Fire & Security designs, manufactures, installs and services electronic security systems, fire protection, detection and suppression systems, sprinklers and fire extinguishers. With $11 billion in annual sales and more than 90,000 employees, Tyco products and services are used to safeguard firefighters, prevent fires, deter thieves and protect people and property. Tyco Fire & Security protects 300 international airports, transportation systems on 5 continents, 75 percent of refineries, 80 percent of the world's top retailers and 2 million commercial enterprises.

'Tis the year... THE YEAR OF

By Alan Taylor

The 2006-2007 academic term has been proclaimed "The Year of Health and Wellness in the Delta" by Delta State University. Throughout this year, students, faculty, staff and departments will take part in a broad range of activities designed to raise awareness of the health issues facing the region and its residents.

This initiative follows on the heels of last year's successful "Year of Cleveland" theme—a theme chosen to honor Delta State's eight decade-long relationship with its host community, Cleveland. Says Dr. Myrtis Tabb, Senior Administrator, Special Projects at Delta State, "We had such a good response to last year's theme and the related events that we knew we wanted to find another good theme for the new academic year. From the time we started planning, we followed last year's model closely."

The theme was proposed by Delta State University President Dr. John Hilpert, who proclaimed "The Year of Health and Wellness in the Delta" as part of his "State of the University" address in early September. In that address, Hilpert promised that faculty, staff, students, and the community would have many opportunities to participate throughout the year.

Tabb reports several factors led to the selection of this particular theme. "Delta State is one of the collaborative partners in the Delta Health Alliance, which has received significant funding to look at health initiatives in the region. In addition to our participation in the Alliance, we considered such things as our School of Nursing, which is certainly one of Delta State's real assets, as well as the research being done in various fields by members of our faculty, and other factors—we felt that health and wellness would make an excellent theme.

"We want to bring about greater emphasis on health issues, and increased awareness both on campus and throughout the community."

– Dr. Myrtis Tabb

"We hope to accomplish several things during the year with this initiative," she continues. "We want to bring about greater emphasis on health issues, and increased awareness, both on campus and throughout the community. We want to highlight both the School of Nursing and all the exciting research that's being done. And, we hope to foster stronger partnerships with health programs in the local schools.

"We want to offer quality programming that first, educates the community on how to meet their health and wellness goals, and second, helps the community in achieving if not surpassing those goals," Tabb concludes.

As the new academic year kicked off, the Health and Wellness theme was featured in a number of events, including several held during the month of October. These included a Breast Cancer Awareness Forum that incorporated panel discussions on both prevention and treatment, and (in conjunction with the Bolivar Medical Center) a screening day where vital screens for heart disease and prostate cancer were provided. Also held in October was the annual Elliott-Nowell-White Science Symposium, a program established to introduce Delta State students and faculty to outstanding scientists of international stature whose careers in research serve as models for students majoring in the sciences.

In November, the theme was celebrated at the

HEALTH & WELLNESS IN THE DELTA

Third Annual Community Recognition Luncheon, with the recognition of individuals and agencies who have made significant contributions to health and wellness in the Delta region.

As Tabb commented at the time the theme was proclaimed, "January is traditionally a time for resolutions and a renewed commitment to health and physical fitness."

Thus, one of the major events of "The Year of Health and Wellness in the Delta" was held in January—the Third Annual Delta Health and Wellness Day. This event, which was free and open to the public, took the form of a large health fair, and featured exhibitors offering free health screenings and information, educational outreach, and opportunities to meet with area healthcare representatives.

The event was sponsored through the University's Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) along with the "Leaders of Delta Health and Wellness" committee, which is made up of both Delta State and community representatives.

"The annual Delta Health and Wellness Day provides opportunities for many Delta residents to take advantage of free health screenings, and to receive information regarding different health related illnesses," Deborah Moore, CCED director, relayed. "This yearly event is the perfect way for DSU to bring together health care professionals with community members who are in need of their services. Not only do adults have the opportunity to gain valuable services and information, elementary school students participate in fun activities to better understand their health and wellness."

Visitors to the Third Annual Delta Health and Wellness Day, which was free and open to the public, took advantage of the free health screenings and health related information.

Delta Health and Wellness Day is just one example of the wide variety of programming planned for 2007, Tabb promises. "One thing planned for the spring—we have a research committee which holds a symposium each year, and this year it will focus on health and wellness issues. Also, the University is funding mini-grants for faculty members to conduct unique programs or do original research. We really want to support our faculty members in these efforts.

"Something I'm really looking forward to is bringing in speakers to address various health concerns for the Delta," she adds.

Among other related projects and events planned for the year is a Health Challenge Program for faculty and staff members under the auspices of Delta State's Physical Education Department, Tabb reports. The program will be offered in the spring and again in the fall, and prizes will be awarded to those who most improve their level of physical fitness.

For more information about "The Year of Health and Wellness in the Delta," please contact University Relations at Delta State University, (662) 846-4675.

Making a Health & Wellness Difference

By Alan Taylor

With its "Health and Wellness in the Delta" initiative, Delta State University's various departments are actively participating in efforts to address those issues which are among the most challenging faced by the region. The School of Nursing continues to address the critical nursing shortage which is affecting all parts of the country, and maybe most especially the Delta. Other DSU departments that offer health-related studies are also participating in Health and Wellness activities and providing important services to the community, while at the same time preparing students for professional careers in many fields.

The Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences offers pre-professional instruction leading to the Bachelor of Science degree. The department also operates a clinic for diagnosis and/or therapy for a wide range of communicarive disorders, including language difficulties, speech pathologies and auditory disorders.

Department Chair Dr. Gloria Brister, herself a Delta State graduate and a member of the DSU faculty for 26 years, reports dramatic growth in the program: "Over the last two years, enrollment in our program has increased from 60 students to 120 students. During 2007, we'll have a renovated setting in Kethley Hall, adding classrooms and clinic space. We've also recently submitted a grant proposal that will help us in preventing communicative disorders—we are hoping to get equipment that will allow both better training and better services."

She adds that the department's best recruiting goal is sending its students back to the high schools and community colleges to conduct outreach programs. "This helps us introduce others to this career field, showing what a good job market it is—one with good salaries and flexible job settings."

The Coordinated Program in Dietetics, wherein students are trained to become Registered Dieticians, is one of Delta State's newest programs; its first graduates were in 2003. The program has also doubled in enrollment size over the past year, reports Program Director Dr. Kathy Davis, who points out that this is a field of study that moves beyond the classroom.

"In addition to lectures, etc. we also provide supervised practice in the field, including taking our students to health fairs to give out nutrition information to children and adults," she says. "One thing we've been adding to the program is more 'hands-on' opportunities to work with real patients."

Students in the program are working more with children these days, Davis adds, including such efforts as body measurement clinics for small children up to teenagers. "It's a good opportunity to counteract all the news you hear about anorexia and eating disorders, for example," she observes. "We work to reinforce the truth about a healthy body image, and we're planning another one of these clinics in the near future."

Of The Year of Health and Wellness in the Delta, Davis says, "We need to increase awareness of the correlation between nutrition, physical fitness, and health. Out students are active in getting out information on nutrition, giving people the tools they need to improve their health."

Since its founding, Delta State has offered excellence in education which extends to many fields of endeavor, and certainly the University has produced scores of graduates who have gone on to distinguished careers in medicine. Delta State alumni are active in a broad range of health care-related fields. Some began their medical studies at Delta State, while others later built on the educational foundation that the University provided. One thing is clear, however, even from considering just a few of these individuals--Delta State alumni are making a difference in a broad range of health care professions.

A native of Sunflower County, **Dr. Travis Richardson** graduated from Delta State in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He went on to attain a Masters and a PhD, in Physiology and Biophysics.

Richardson taught while attending the Tulane School of Medicine, where he received his MD in 1966. He followed this up with three years of post-doctoral study before opening his own practice in the town of Drew, where he practiced full-time until 1994 and continued on a part-time basis until his retirement in 2004. He now lives in Gulfport, MS.

He comments, "I'd say it's pretty evident that I believe Delta State University offers a good pre-med program. My three children attended Delta State; two of them are now physicians, and the

third is a nurse-practitioner. I also helped influence several of my grandchildren to attend Delta State, as well as two of my nephews, who are also both physicians.

Dr. Wilmer Nichols, who received his BS degree at Delta State in 1960, is currently Professor of Medicine with the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Florida. He says Delta State University made a definite difference in his life and career choices.

"If I'd never gone to Delta State, and perhaps instead to a bigger university that didn't offer the kind of personal interaction Delta State does, I might have not gone any further," he comments. "Like a lot of kids, during my first year or two at Delta State, I was more interested in fun than in studies. But then I realized I needed to get serious about a career. I changed my major from English to Mathematics, took all the math courses, and graduated with a Mathematics Degree. Dr. Eleanor Boyd Walters, who was chair of the Math Department at the time, really helped guide me in the right direction. "

Asked about The Year of Health and Wellness In The Delta, Nichols states, "People need to be aware of the fact that something needs to be done—with many who have cardiovascular problems, such as hypertension, it goes undiagnosed and untreated until it becomes life-threatening. So awareness is key in improving the health of Delta citizens."

Ken Causey, who was born in Clarksdale and raised in Cleveland, graduated from Delta State in 1986 with a BA degree.

He is now the Director of Outpatient Rehabilitation Services with Baptist Health Systems in Jackson, and oversees six outpatient facilities for physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, and pediatric physical therapy.

"I received a strong science background at Delta State, which helped me immensely when I went back to school to get my physical therapy degree," he says. "One of the really positive things about Delta State is the low teacher-to-student ratio. This makes the learning process much more personal, and to my mind, much more beneficial.

"Focusing on health and wellness issues this year is a very good idea. The Delta is so underserved, and knowledge and education are the main keys to addressing the region's health problems. We have to improve the awareness of the problems, as well as of the services and facilities that are available."

Stephen "Step" Roberts is the Assistant Athletic Trainer for the Atlanta Thrashers NHL hockey team, a position he assumed in 2005. In this role, he assists the head trainer in all treatment and rehabilitation procedures for injured players. Prior to joining the Thrashers, Roberts spent a season as head athletic trainer for the Mississippi Sea Wolves of the East Coast Hockey League (ECHL), and two seasons as a trainer for the Jackson Bandits of the ECHL.

Roberts earned a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Delta State University in 2000. He was a member of the University's swimming team, and served as its captain during his final year at Delta State. He continues to compete in triathlons during the off-season.

"My swimming career was my life while I was at Delta State," he says. "I knew I couldn't swim my whole life, though, but I also knew I wanted to stay in sports. So now I'm still around water—it's just frozen.

"I wouldn't trade my days at Delta State for anything. I know I couldn't have received a better education anywhere, and it's great to see how the sports medicine program at Delta State has grown just since I've graduated. I'm proud to be a Delta State graduate."

The Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences operates a clinic for diagnosis and/or therapy for a wide range of communicative disorders.

Health & Wellness in the Delta

September 2006

Health Challenge

October 2006

Breast Cancer Awareness Forum
Health Screenings
Symposium
Octoberfest

November 2006

Surviving the Holidays with Meal Planning
Community Recognition Luncheon

December 2006

World Aids Day

January 2007

3rd Annual Delta Health & Wellness Day
Health & Wellness Research & Awareness Fund
B.E.E.P. (Breast Education & Early-detection Project)
Health Screening Initiative
Mississippi in Motion Campaign
DSU Health Challenge
Adult & Infant CPR Certification Class

February 2007

Health Screening & Education
MS Delta Women in Leadership Conference
Tool Box Kit
Teen Mississippi
Health Career Day

March 2007

Junior Auxiliary Health & Wellness
National Athletic Training Month
National Nutrition Month
Hand Washing
E-Statesmen Newsletter

April 2007

The Faculty will present at the 3rd Annual Research and Scholarship Symposium
Health Care Careers
Hislory of Nursing Exhibit
Walk a Mile in My Shoes
Spring Sports Day

May 2007

Staff Development Day

Meeting *needs*, while *in need*: The School of Nursing

By Alan Taylor

The Delta State University School of Nursing is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. The school that is built on the site of the old City Hospital, which is well remembered by many people who grew up in Cleveland (many of them were born there), has grown to be one of Delta State's strongest assets.

Indeed, it is an asset that grows increasingly vital as the nursing shortage in the region—like in much of the country—becomes ever more critical, and the School of Nursing's value and success are demonstrated by the fact that its graduates are known throughout Mississippi for their exemplary nursing care, knowledge and caring as practitioners, educators and administrators.

The School of Nursing offers undergraduate degrees for individuals wanting to become baccalaureate-prepared registered nurses, and RNs seeking a baccalaureate degree. As Dr. Lizabeth Carlson, MSN, DNS, RN, BC, Dean of the School of Nursing and an associate professor of nursing, points out, "We have the only baccalaureate nursing program within a 100-mile radius."

The web-enhanced Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree is for students who are not yet nurses, but are preparing to take the licensure exam to become registered nurses. Students applying to the RN-BSN program are registered nurses who already have an associate degree or diploma, and who are often pursuing the BSN in order to obtain or maintain a management position or pursue advanced study. A master's program, with Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult Health Educator and Nurse Administrator tracks, is also offered.

The School of Nursing also partners with the rural communities in the Mississippi Delta to promote good health habits and to help meet the unique health care needs of the region. As Carlson continues, "We are committed to helping individuals, families and communities by striving to meet their health care demands both now and in the future."

Carlson, who was born in Arkansas and raised in Missouri, has been a nurse for over 25 years, part of this time spent as a nurse officer in the U. S. Air Force, stationed at Keesler Air Force Base on the Gulf Coast. She received her BSN at Missouri State University, a master's at the University of South Alabama, and her Doctor of Nursing degree at Louisiana State University. She has been a member of the Delta State faculty for eight years. Named Acting Dean of the School of Nursing in 2004, she was then appointed Dean the following year.

With the growing need for nurses, it is perhaps not surprising that the School of Nursing has seen dramatic enrollment growth in recent years. Carlson reports, "In the fall of 2003, we had a total of 63 students in all three of our programs. In the fall of 2006, that number was up to 152. We've recently admitted

Classroom size for the School of Nursing has become a critical issue that limits enrollment.

another 57 students, putting our total over 200."

She goes on to cite one reason the School is working so hard to turn out registered nurses. "Nationally, there is something like a seven to ten percent shortage of nurses. In the Delta, it is 23 percent or more—some of our hospitals have a vacancy rate in nursing positions of over 30 percent."

A recent grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will significantly aid the School of Nursing in its efforts to train nurses and address the Delta's nursing shortage, as well as face the challenges of student attrition, Carlson says. "We have initiatives in place to address the problem of attrition among nursing school students. In some places, this is running at 50 percent or more, but I'm glad to say that we're running at slightly less than 10 percent here at Delta State.

"It's a problem that we're addressing in several ways. The mentoring that our Robert Wood Johnson grant is making possible is one very big part of our effort. We are starting a number of mentoring projects with our students—a number of our faculty members are active in student mentoring, and we also have some of our older students mentoring the younger students."

Sessions where faculty meets with students and practicing nurses to gather input on what needs to be done to meet the student's needs are another part of the effort, she adds.

"We really work to support our students. For example, we've put in place what we call 'student navigators' who have master's degrees in counseling. They provide help to our students on everything from study habits to life skills—we've seen this have a major impact on the students' successful path through their course of study.

"Also underway is a family project, where we meet with the families of our students and try to help them better understand what the student is going through. Hopefully, we're encouraging the families to provide a stronger level of support," Carlson reports.

The School of Nursing is also actively providing services to the greater community. Carlson acknowledges, "We were very much involved in the Health and Wellness Day and the Octoberfest screening day. We also send people to talk at local schools abour diabetes and heart disease, and our students do various on-campus projects.

"One of our faculty members, Vicki Bingham, who is chair of academic programs, has piloted an effort to establish good hand-washing programs in elementary schools. A big part of this is meeting with the children and teaching them how regular, good hand washing can prevent illness and decrease absenreeism from school."

Classroom size for the School of Nursing has become a critical issue that limits enrollment.

The current clinical skills lab for the School of Nursing, with five work stations, is filled beyond capacity with as many as 9 students at each station.

Dr. Libby Carlson, dean of the School of Nursing, always finds time to meet with her students and offer an encouraging word.

Even with its vital role in helping address the nursing shortage—surely one of the Delta's most troubling health care challenges—and the valuable services it provides to a region which unfortunately leads the nation in instances of serious health problems, the Delta State School of Nursing faces its own challenges.

A program that has more than tripled its enrollment in the past few years needs to grow to continue its mission to both students and the community. As Dr. Carlson points out, "We're packed in pretty tight. Our building was designed for small classes, and we have a desperate need to expand."

A grant from the Delta Health Alliance is allowing the School to add to its faculty and enlarge two of its classrooms; and while certainly needed and welcome, Carlson says this alone, cannot address all the School's needs. "We've worked with the Delta Health Alliance for several years, and they have been very supportive of the School. But adding to our two smaller classrooms has only allowed us to add eight students; we really need another large classroom. We're in the posirion of having to turn people away from our programs, in spite of the urgent need for nurses in the Delta."

Also needed, Carlson says, is a new and larger clinical skills lab for the School's students. "Our current lab has five work stations. That is not nearly adequate for 185 baccalaureate students, like we presently have."

While it may face challenges, the Delta State School of Nursing continues to strive for excellence in nursing education. Says Dr. Carlson, "The need for well-educated, highly skilled nurses has never been greater, and our graduates can be assured that they will be well prepared for positions of responsibility in all areas of health care."

For more information about the Delta State University School of Nursing, call (662) 846-4255.

★ TOP SECRET ★

Alumnus recalls top secret missions from his days in the Air Force

By Jody Correro

Marion Marshall Cole Jr. flew as many top secrer United State Air Force missions as he made moves around the Delta and elsewhere in the state of Mississippi with his parents in the 1930s through 1950s.

Attached to the Third Air Force European, Cole flew perhaps 50 courier flights, transporting classified war material from Gardemoer, Norway, (a base shared by the U.S. and Norway in the late 1940s and beyond) to headquarters in London.

"I flew at least one mission a month, ferrying Cold War top secret information to London. From there it was flown to the Defense Department in Washington, D.C.," the 1952 Delta State University alumnus revealed.

Not until some 40 years later were the contents of the material de-classified by the U.S. Department of Defense. Cole, who had earned the rank of captain by then, explained that the Air Force and other branches of the service had such sophisticated spying techniques even back then, that "we immediately knew when the Russians were starting a jet or cranking one of their older prop-driven planes. I could tell you all sorts of information about what we were doing, but I don't want to bore you with details. I will say that our nation was much safer during the early Cold War period than residents were led to believe."

While stationed in Norway, Cole met his wife Tove Henriksen, who was a dental technician in an office near the base. They married while he was deployed at Gardemoer and moved to Cleveland in June 1956. While there, he and Tove reared four children – Bente, who lives in Cleveland; Marion Marshall Cole III, a Delta State University telecommunications supervisor; Nina, who lives in Marion, Ark.; and Hanne, who lives in Steiner.

Because Cole's father was employed by the John Deere Plough company in the 1940s and 1950s, he moved 11 times and attended nine different schools. "I was six-years-old when I enrolled in the first grade at Pace Elementary School. I went there for two-and-one-half years, then Rosedale for about the same amount of time before moving to Cleveland for my six and seventh grade years."

Members of the 1951 Delta State Teachers College Football Team: "the Greenies." Marion Cole (#30) is on the back row, second from right.

He would eventually end up attending schools in Campti, La., Rolling Fork, Tunica, Greenville, Jackson (Central High School), Picayune and Tunica (for the second time), where he graduated in 1947.

While playing basketball for the Tunica Cardinals during his senior high school season, Cole recalled that Clarksdale came to play a game "on our home court. It was a rough and tumble, hard-fought contest. In fact, a fight erupted on the court and I got into it with a fellow who would later become my best friend."

Cole was a four-sport letterman at most of the high schools he attended. "I loved football, though, and I was set on going to Ole Miss when I finished at Tunica. Coach (Johnny) Vaught sent me over to Northwest Mississippi Junior College in Senatobia (often called Senatobia Junior College in 1948.) It was here during fall practice that I met a guy who looked very familiar to me. I introduced myself to him, and then he told me he was from Clarksdale and then both of us remembered the scrap with each other on the basketball court in Tunica."

That familiar person was Hugh Ellis Walker and the two men have been close friends for 60 years now. At Northwest, the two men played two seasons together, and then both transferred to Delta State where they again spent two years together on the Statesmen football team under then head coach Eugene B. "Chad" Chadwick.

There he established fast friendships with Bobby Barbour, Fred Foster, John Brewer, Edwin "Wimp" Reed, Bob "Ox" Terry, Wig Reily and many others. To this day, Cole and several others from the 1950 and 1951 "Greenies" teams still get together at Delta State's last home football game.

Cole returns to the campus several times each year and joins Delta State University friends and alumni at the annual "Ole DSU" Grad Reunion Weekend each year at J.P. Coleman State Park in Iuka.

Delta State Teachers College > Delta State College > Delta State University

The more we change...
The more we *stay the same.*

Remember the annual watermelon cuttings, dances in Whitfield Gym, Delta Council Day, the Delta Belles, Bid Day on the Quad, Springfest, The Mill, Renaissance, and Pig Pickin. Cheering our Statesmen on to victory, and making new friends at Shumate Park.

Remember the dedicated faculty and staff. Amazing school spirit. Our supportive, close-knit community.

Help us to ensure that our students continue to enjoy the rich student experience that has been our hallmark since 1925.

Please be generous when our student fundraisers call in October!

Support "The Delta State Fund"

Your gift will make a difference.

Delta State University

WWW.DELTASTATE.EDU

662-846-4711 • 800-468-6378 ext. 4711

A Life in Baseball

The Crawford Center to house the new Dave "Boo" Ferriss Museum

Former player makes lead gift for baseball facility to honor father

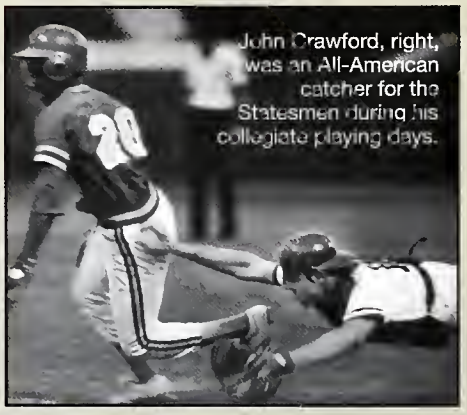
By Jody Correro

When John Crawford first stepped on to the Delta State University campus back in the fall of 1974, little did he realize where his decision to matriculate would lead.

Since his graduation from Delta State almost 30 years ago, he has become a successful businessman, husband and father. He has also become recognized as one of the most faithful, ardent and loyal alumnus in school history.

He and his wife Beth, also a Delta State graduate, have raised three daughters in their Starkville, Miss., home. Their youngest daughter, Kendell has already signed a national letter of intent to play basketball with the Lady Statesmen next season.

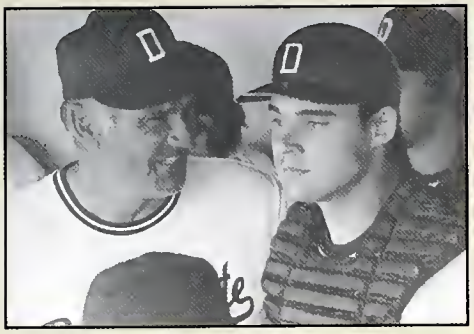
Only a year ago, John a former statesman baseball player, himself, and his family, including his mother Mabel, decided to do something very special to honor the memory of John's father, Robert L. Crawford. The Crawford family made a substantial gift to the University that resulted in the naming of its newest baseball facility—The Robert L. Crawford Center.



John Crawford, right, was an All-American catcher for the Statesmen during his collegiate playing days.

As the main entrance and exit point for all future Statesmen baseball games at Ferriss Field, the facility also calls for expanded restroom and concession areas, an umpire's locker room and a merchandising stand. Most significant, though, the Crawford Center will house The Dave "Boo" Ferriss Museum.

Set to open in late March, "Inning by Inning: A Life in Baseball, The Dave "Boo" Ferriss Museum" will chronicle the former long-time Statesmen head coach's illustrious career—including photos and personal memorabilia from his early days at Shaw High School, to a young man at Mississippi State, to the height of his career with the Boston Red Sox, to his days at the helm of his beloved Delta State program.



Ferriss and Crawford in the dugout.

Visitors will know immediately they have entered an environment that captures the aura and essence of the game that Ferriss, himself, and John Crawford played and continue to love so much.

Inside, the floor is tiled to replicate a baseball diamond, complete with green grass, a pitching mound, home plate and first and third base foul lines. On the west wall is an abbreviated version of a "step up, step down" dugout, complete with a tin roof and "feel of baseball" display where visitors can literally feel the game by touching real wooden bats, baseballs, cleats, uniforms and artificial surface for a baseball diamond.

Five large, glass-enclosed display cases will feature much of Ferriss' vast memorabilia collection, including a wool uniform, gloves and an official Red Sox vs. St. Louis Cardinal World Series pennant.

A three-tier, mock-up of baseball bleachers will allow fans to climb up and settle down to watch a giant-screen display that features a variety of different video clips of Ferriss, both as a player and coach. Visitors can select from a library of clips by pressing any one of the illuminated buttons along the bottom of the screen, including arguably one of the most touching memories of recent Statesmen lure. The clip captures an emotionally-charged head coach Mike Kinnison leaping into the stands after the Statesmen won their first national title in 2004 and handing Ferriss the championship trophy.

University archivist, Emily Weaver has designed the museum space, including case layouts, floor plan and traffic flow. She partnered with University Relations' graphic designer, Laura Fleeman to design the panels that will hang behind each case.

"We wanted to be very mindful of flow in our designs," Weaver explained.

Delta State officially dedicated the Robert L. Crawford Center with a ceremonial ribbon cutting Saturday, March 24. Pictured are: (from left) Dr. John Hilpert, president of Delta State; Mike Kinnison, DSU baseball head coach; Ronnie Mayers, Delta State athletic director; Emily Crawford Fowler, Kendell Crawford, Mabel Crawford, Beth Crawford, John Crawford, and Dana George, DSU assistant athletic director for development.

"We knew this space would attract a lot of attention from several different audiences, and we worked very hard to be sure traffic will flow smoothly without much congestion.

"The cases themselves, will run in chronological order – inning by inning, if you will," she continued. "We document Coach's career just as it happened in real time."

The project initially began to take shape two years ago with talks between Weaver, Dr. Brad Teague, then Delta State athletic director and Keith Fulcher, executive director of the Delta State Foundation.

This past June, Ferriss and wife, Miriam, agreed to the project; and now, less than a year later, Delta State officials will dedicate the Crawford Center and the Dave "Boo" Ferriss Museum, Saturday, March 24.

"It's going to be an exciting weekend on so many levels," Teague predicted. "It will be the ultimate culmination of a lot of hard work by a lot of good people."

The Dave "Boo" Ferriss Museum marketing team and planning committee – Teague, Weaver, Fleeman, Rori Herbison, director of University Relations; and Matt Jones, director of athletic media relations – all contend this a "dream project to work on."

"This is the type of project you only hope will come across your desk when you wake up in the morning," Herbison levied. "I think I can speak for the group when I say it has been a tremendous honor and privilege to be associated with the Dave "Boo" Ferriss Museum."

Teague, an All-American pitcher for the Statesmen from 1988-1991, added, "There is

Former Statesmen head coach Dave "Boo" Ferriss has donated much of his storied memorabilia collection to the University for the Museum project; including the glove (pictured above) he wore during his days as a professional pitcher with the Red Sox.

Inning BY Inning
A LIFE IN BASEBALL
THE DAVE "BOO" FERRISS MUSEUM

The patriarch of Delta State baseball, Dave "Boo" Ferriss addresses a small, intimate crowd of friends, family and former players the preview event for the museum bearing his name. "Inning by Inning: A Life in the Baseball, The Dave "Boo" Ferriss Museum" is now open to the pubic or by appointment.

no one like Coach Ferriss, no one. Other school officials have told me before, 'If we only had a "Boo" Ferriss, we would have a facility like this, too.'"

Not to be lost though, Teague cautions, the facility, itself, would not be possible, if not for Ferriss' former player. "Without the support of the Crawford family, The Dave "Boo" Ferriss Museum would not be possible. Their generosity will ensure the continuation of this baseball program's legacy of success for years to come. It is a great facility that will surely enhance the whole baseball operation. More than just baseball fans will want to see Coach's memorabilia, and we want everyone to know they're invited to tour the facility…especially on game days."

Arguably as modest and humble as his former coach, Crawford stressed, "This gift to Delta State University is from the entire Crawford family. My father was an avid supporter and fan of Delta State baseball, while my mother was a baseball fan of her son."

And Mabel Crawford had much to cheer for during John's collegiate career. He was a two-time All-Gulf South Conference, All-NCAA South Region and All-American catcher, lettering under Ferriss from 1975-78. A versatile athlete, Crawford also punted for the Statesmen football during the 1974 and 1975 seasons. He was honored with the Charles S. Kerg Senior Athlete Award in 1978.

For Crawford, though, beyond the accolades, the most prized possession of his playing career was the relationship he gained and still enjoys with his head coach. "There are a lot of people who know what a good coach Coach Ferriss was, but those who have come to know him as I have, know he is an even better person. I have very rarely met someone who keeps up with us (some 500 former players) as Coach Ferriss has. I talk to him every month or so," he revealed.

> "I am so blessed and thankful to have coached John."
>
> – Coach Dave "Boo" Ferriss

Crawford has enjoyed other benefits from his relationship with Coach Ferriss, remembering a tale from his own minor league playing days. Drafted by the Detroit Tigers, Crawford recalled an occasion when traveling with the team during spring training; he and his teammates were getting ready to play the Red Sox in Winter Haven, Fla.

"I saw Ted Williams. He was the Red Sox hitting instructor at the time. I approached him and told him about playing for "Boo" Ferriss at Delta State. We struck up a rather lengthy conversation, and when we finished, I walked back to my teammates – who were awe-struck and anxiously wanting to know how I knew the former great hitter. 'Oh, we go back a long ways,' I told them," Crawford joked.

Of their relationship, Ferriss recalls his former player with the same level of respect and reverence. "I am so blessed and thankful to have coached John," the 85-year-old patriarch and Red Sox Hall of Fame member offered. "John was one of the finest guys to ever wear a Delta State baseball uniform, a top player and strong competitor. The Crawfords have been tremendous supporters of our program for years. They have supported us like few others and I am excited this facility bears their name."

"I am honored and humbled by the decision to have a special section in the Crawford Center, and you can bet that there will be a lot of DSU memorabilia in there," Ferriss promised. "I am glad I have some things of interest to our community, the University family and alumni and baseball fans everywhere. I have been truly blessed with my association with Delta State and the Red Sox, and I am indeed grateful to the Yawkey Foundation/Boston Red Sox for its substantial gift in funding this facility."

Several of Crawford's former teammates had only words of praise for him and their former coach after learning of the plans for the Robert L. Crawford Center and Ferriss Museum.

Judson Thipgen, current executive director of the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce and former battery mate of Crawford, commended, "It is awfully nice for John and his family to make the lead gift for this facility. Anytime you can have a facility like

the Crawford Center, it is a plus for the community. When baseball fans come to the games, they can visit a state-of-the-art facility."

Former Statesmen third baseman and Crawford teammate, Jimmy Newquist, lauded, "The whole facility is a fabulous enhancement to the already great baseball complex we have at Delta State. I am sure The Ferriss Room will reach farther than Cleveland, Delta State and even Mississippi. The legacy of Coach Ferriss, already in place, will only be enhanced by this fitting tribute to him."

Current Statesmen head coach Mike Kinnison further contended, "Coach Ferriss has been blessed with so many memories and so much baseball memorabilia. He is completely unselfish about sharing them with us. The Ferriss Museum is unique, offering people who come to our games or just to visit the campus, an enriching experience walking through that room.

"He and Mrs. Ferriss have been going through 26 seasons of photos, clippings and other memorabilia of his years at Delta State University. Having all of his personal items in the Ferriss Museum will be comforting to him, knowing that they will always be there on permanent display so visitors and fans can go back and revisit them."

Clarion-Ledger columnist Rick Cleveland mused, "I consider myself fortunate that I have visited the Ferriss' lovely home several times, and sometimes feel like I am stepping into a wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.

"Coach—I have always called him Coach—has an incredible collection of memorabilia worth, I'm sure, hundreds of thousands of dollars. I asked him years ago what he was going to do with it all, and he said he had something in mind. Now I know what – and it's perfect," Cleveland continued. "Outside of his family and his faith, "Boo" Ferriss loves Delta State baseball more than anything. A museum – next to Ferriss Field – that will contain all that memorabilia is exactly where it should be. As I see it, it is perfect."

For more information, please contact the Delta State athletic department at (662) 846-4300.

MILES AWAY

Delta State University boasts over 21,000 alumni, many of which are far from their beloved campus. Despite the miles, our alumni and friends keep their alma mater close to their heart, proudly displaying their Statesmen pride wherever their adventurous travels may take them.

484 Miles Away: (L to R) Celian and Norma Lewis, formerly of Indianola, Miss., now residing in Destin, Florida.

495 Miles Away: (L. to R.) Nina Horn ('71), Carol Thigpen ('94) and Carole Pleasants ('65), now residing in the Sandestin, Florida area.

2,189 Miles Away: Robyn Marlow ('96) at the 35th Annual Safari Club International Convention held each year in Reno, Nevada.

1,209 Miles Away: (L. to R.) Meg Jones ('07) and Matt Jones, director of athletic media relations at Delta State, visiting the Statue of Liberty in New York City.

Where has the road taken you?

Share your travels with us.
Let us see where you're reading the Delta State alumni magazine.
Email your photos to alumni@deltastate.edu.

All the Belles and Whistles

The Delta Belles in Review

By Kaitlyn Tucker

Fifty years ago, in the fall of 1957, Dot and Ralph Franklin came to Delta State University, then Delta State College, to take command of the marching band. Dot used the opportunity to create a precision dance team—the Delta Belles—who would perform with the band.

The Franklins came to the college from Copiah-Lincoln Junior College at the request of Dr. James Ewing, President of Delta State College at the time. Ralph had been the band director at Copiah-Lincoln, and Dot had worked alongside her husband as the director of the Colettes, a dance group similar to the Delta Belles.

"I did it because my husband did it," Dot said, describing how she first became involved with precision dance teams. "It was nice because it was something we did together."

Although Dot Franklin choreographed all of the routines performed by her dance troupes, she, herself, had never had formal dance training. It was not until after she married Ralph that she learned to dance at all.

Ralph was in the service, and the young couple would often socialize with other military couples. Eventually, music would be played and people would begin dancing.

"When someone would come ask me to dance, I would tell them I'd never learned how—and then they taught me," Dot smiled.

When the Franklins came to Delta State College, the entire marching band consisted of six majorettes and 19 instrumental members.

"[The Belles] were something new, and I was new to the campus," said Maggie Garrett, one of the original Delta Belles of 1957, as she described how she decided to get involved with a precision dance line. "I had transferred from Holmes Community College, where I was a majorette."

Under the leadership of the Franklins, the Belles established a name for themselves, both at Delta State and throughout the South.

Half-time shows at the football games became shows of pageantry and excitement with the combined efforts of Dot and Ralph Franklin. The shows would consist of 15 numbers—filled with lights, fireworks, props and flashy shows.

"Ralph was very good at putting on shows," Dot recalled. "We had fireworks, spotlights and a girl who would dance as a silhouette in the moon. People would come to see that as much as to watch football."

Props were staples for the Belles, who used beach balls, giant dice, ladders and a variety of other things in their routines.

"We had so many props," Linda Holland Ross, a Delta Belle from 1965-69, reminisced. "There were ladders that we would climb up and dance on."

Dot recalled keeping one of the ladders at the family's home, in the kitchen, so that she could work out choreography in the evenings after practice.

"I would get up on the ladder to figure out routines," Dot confirmed. "I would have to hunch over a little bit so I wouldn't hit the ceiling."

One prop was a metal hoop with a three-by-five base on the top and bottom. The Belles would place the beach balls they were dancing with inside the hoops and dance on the top platform.

"It looked like we were just dancing on beach balls," Ross explained. "We all had to have great balance to stay on those platforms and do our kicks."

In founding the Delta Belles, Dot Franklin established a legacy that inspired girls to join their ranks. Many young ladies would audition every summer, though the group's numbers stayed between 30 and 36.

"In the days before the sororities came, this is what most of the girls wanted to do, if they weren't cheerleaders," Dot reminisced.

"I remember seeing the Delta Belles in parades, and I always wanted to be one, too," Ross admired. "The first year I auditioned about 50 girls tried out, and only 32 made it."

In the 20 years that the Franklins directed the marching band and the Delta Belles, the Belles became the University's "claim to fame." The girls performed at conventions, in lobby shows and marched in parades.

"The first time we were asked to perform [outside of a football game], Mr. Ed Kossman [a local car dealership] asked us to dance at an auto convention on the Coast," Dot remembered.

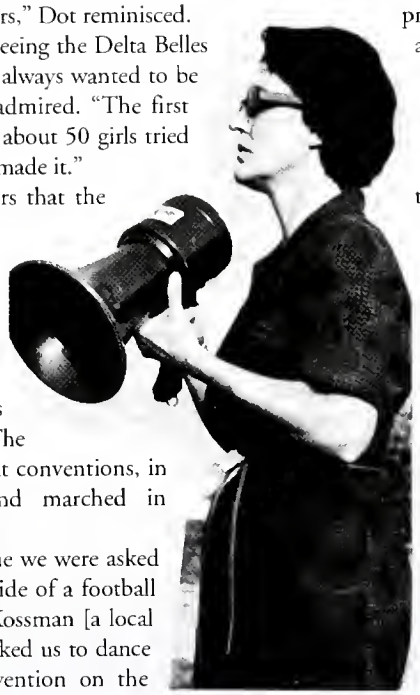
Linda Holland Ross, a Delta Belle from 1965-1969 who served as the Head Delta Belle in the 1968-1969 school year, poses on top of a beach ball prop outside Walter Sillers Coliseum.

After that, the Belles were asked to perform in conventions and parades in many different places. For years, the Delta Belles were asked to perform in the Rex Mardi Gras Parade in New Orleans. They performed at the Gator Bowl, in Washington, D.C., Detroit and Cleveland, Ohio.

"We performed in every game," Ross proudly boasted. "We traveled all the time. The Franklins were good about making us see everything. One time, we were on our way back [to Cleveland], and we were all asleep on the bus. Mr. Franklin woke us up and made all of us get off the bus just to see the Shenandoah Valley."

Although the original Delta Belles were a precision marching and dance group in a similar vein to the Rockettes, after the Franklins retired in the late 1970's, the Belles went through a transformation. Under new band director Bill Clark, the Delta Belles turned into a majorette line.

Eventually, the Delta Belles returned to their dance roots, although in a different fashion from the precision work they were originally known for. In the years since, the Delta Belles have followed dance team trends, using more jazz and hip hop moves. The group still performs with the band in the half-time shows at football games, and even dances in some pep rallies.



Founder and director of the Delta Belles, Dot Franklin calls out instructions to the dance line.

Retzer Scholarship celebrates 20th year

Dr. Billy Moore (left), dean of the College of Business, and Dr. Cooper Johnson (second from right), chair of the Division of Management and Marketing, and Keith Fulcher (right), Executive Director of the Delta State University Alumni-Foundation present Ambassador Mike Retzer a Delta State logo cap in appreciation for his many years of supporting the Retzer Resources Scholarship for a Management and Marketing major. In 1986, Retzer established the scholarship in memory of Dr. Lawton K. Owens, former chair of the Division of Management and Marketing. Ambassador Retzer, of Greenville, is serving as ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania.

IRA Rollover Act passed, offers new tax-free giving opportunity

Wilmer Nichols, Ph.D., a 1960 graduate of Delta State University, is professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Florida's College of Medicine. He is regarded as one of the nation's leading researchers in the application of mathematical principals to understanding the dynamics of blood flow in cardiovascular disease and aging.

It is not what those who knew Dr. Nichols as a teen might have envisioned for his future career. He grew up very poor, left high school after the 10th grade and spent four years in the Navy, earning his GED along the way. He then attended Northeast Mississippi Junior College for a year until a friend convinced Nichols to join him at Delta State University. There, his life began to transform.

"It was challenging to compete with students who had the academic skills I lacked from high school," he admitted. "Delta State's smaller class sizes and the guidance of dedicated professors made all the difference for me. Delta State, and my friend Dr. Henry Outlaw, motivated me to pursue a higher degree so I could pursue a career into academics and research. My three years at Delta State were some of the best times of my life."

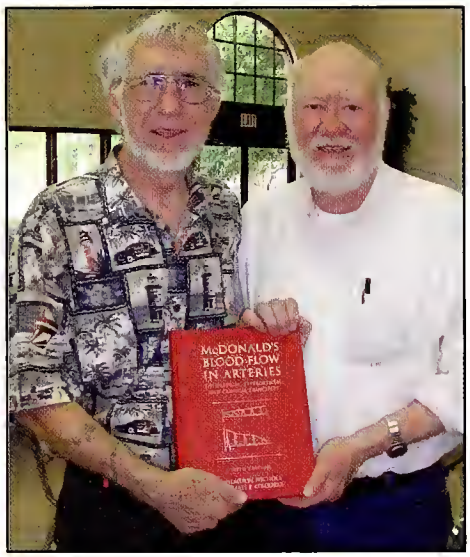
Nichols majored in Mathematics and minored in Physics at Delta State, and then received his Master's degree in Mathematics and Physics from the University of Southern Mississippi and his PhD in Physiology and Biophysics from the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham. Also, he completed specialized courses at UCLA and Baylor Medical Center in the area of Math and Physics applied to human blood circulation (hemodynamics).

Years ago, Nichols told Keith Fulcher, Executive Director of the Delta State University Alumni-Foundation, that he would make a gift from his IRA directly to Delta State if he didn't have to pay income tax on the IRA funds. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 made that possible, and Nichols quickly arranged his gift. "Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, recently signed by President (George W.) Bush, owners of individual retirement accounts (IRA) who have attained age 70 1/2 can make charitable gifts (up to $100,000) directly from their IRA completely tax-free," Fulcher explained. "We invite anyone who is interested in learning more about this new giving option to contact my office.

"The University is very thankful to Dr. Nichols for his generous donation, and we hope his gift inspires others to consider supporting Delta State through their IRA," Fulcher continued.

To date, the Foundation has received four IRA gifts totaling $75,000.

To learn more about how to make a gift from your IRA, contact the Delta State University Development Office at (662) 846-4708 or development@deltastate.edu.



Dr. Nichols (left), the first donor to make a gift under the new IRA Rollover Act, recently presented the University with the fifth edition of "McDonald's Blood Flow in Arteries," which he co-edited. Dr. Henry Outlaw accepted the book on behalf of the University.

Former Tuskegee Airman visits campus in Foundation-sponsored event

The Delta State Foundation, in cooperation with the Mississippi Delta Council for Farm Workers, Inc. and alumnus Donald Green ('80), co-sponsored a visit by Lt. Col Washington Dubois Ross, a former Tuskegee Airman, to Cleveland, Mound Bayou and Clarksdale.

A native of Mound Bayou, Ross graduated in 1943 from the Tuskegee Army Air Base in Alabama as a fighter pilot with the rank of second lieutenant. "Ten of us went overseas as replacements for the 332d Fighter Group," Ross later explained.

His unit was transferred to the 15th Air Force where they flew P-47s and P-51s on long escort missions protecting bombers. "My unit had the distinction of not losing a single bomber to enemy fighters," he continued.

Pictured Chip Cooper (right), Director of Flight Operations at Delta State, presented Lt. Col. Ross with a commemorative DSU Aviation t-shirt and provided Ross an opportunity to use the flight simulator – the first time Ross had sat in a cockpit in over 60 years.

Graeber Foundation makes second $50,000 gift

In December 2006, Lewis A. Graeber, Jr., on behalf of the Graeber Foundation, presented a check for $50,000 to Keith Fulcher, Executive Director of the Delta State University Foundation, Inc. The same amount was given in December of 2005 for a total of $100,000 to support scholarships at the University.

Lewis Graeber and his brother, James P. Graeber, formed the Graeber Foundation in the mid-1950s as an instrument to financially help schools, colleges, charities and other institutions provide their much needed services. Today, the Graeber Foundation is managed by Lewis Graeber, two of his sons, Clark and Bill, of Marks, and Jim's son, Skip, of Clarksdale.

"Delta State University is one of the best schools in Mississippi," stated Lewis Graeber. "Delta State provides the opportunity for a quality education to our children, and it is right here at home."

The donation was given in honor of Jeff and Donna Tarver from the firm Tarver, Tarver, Kirby and Jackson, CPA's of Greenville. Jeff is a 1976 graduate and Donna is a 1973 graduate of Delta State University and life long friends of the Graeber family. Jeff commented, "I am grateful to the Graeber Foundation's very generous gift to our alma mater and deeply touched that it is made in honor of my family's long-time business association and friendship with a family that I admire tremendously. The Graeber and the Tarver families have known each other since the late 1940s when my father became the accountant for Graeber Brothers. I am very fortunate to be carrying on the relationship, which is both personal and professional."

"The Tarver family has a long legacy of attending Delta State," said Fulcher. "Jeff's father, Bill, was a 1938 graduate and his mother, Annie Louise Stovall, a 1937 graduate of then Delta State Teachers College (DSTC) and two of their children are graduates of the University. We are pleased that the Graebers' generous gift was made in honor of Jeff and Donna, and I express thanks on behalf of our 21,000 alumni," stated Fulcher.

"I applaud the Graebers for their decision to provide scholarships to the University that will allow us to recruit deserving students. It is especially fitting that the gift be used to help us recruit future alumni of the same quality as Jeff and Donna Tarver," said President Dr. John Hilpert.

Brett Walker (l-r), Student Recruiter, and Lindsey Hudson, the first recipient of the Graeber Family Foundation Scholarship present Jeff and Donna Tarver with a DSU logo blanket and shirt in appreciation for the Graeber Foundation's $50,000 contribution that will fund scholarships for deserving students. Keith Fulcher (right) Executive Director of the DSU Foundation, Inc. stated, "We appreciate the Graebers assisting such quality students as Lindsey to earn her degree in nursing and we look forward to awarding additional scholarships to deserving students."

Ferretti-Karnstedt endowed Art Scholarship Fund

The Ferretti-Karnstedt Endowed Art Scholarship Fund was established in memory of Jutta Ferretti's late husband, John S. Ferretti.

"The Ferretti-Karnstedt Art Scholarship is established in the Art Department in recognition of my husband's long-standing support of the arts and in his interest in assisting students in earning a college degree. It is my hope that the scholarship will provide the means for a young person to complete their degree," Jutta offered.

John Ferretti was born in 1918 and passed away in May 2005. He attended what was then Mississippi State College, now Mississippi State University, on a baseball and football scholarship and earned his degree in 1940 in agronomy and engineering.

His minor league baseball career with the St. Louis Cardinals was interrupted by World War II. He served in the South Pacific as a member of the U. S. Air Force. He opened Ferretti Building Materials in 1959 in his hometown of Shelby and worked there until retirement.

During retirement he was an avid golfer and attended cultural and art events at Delta State University. He also volunteered as superintendent of the Shelby Country Club from 1986 until 2001.

"We are extremely grateful to Mrs. Ferretti for her generous gift and we invite others to consider how they can best support the Art Department," said Bill Lester, chair of the department.

To make a gift to the Ferretti-Karnstedt Art Scholarship or to discuss establishing a scholarship, please contact the Delta State University Development Office at (662) 846-4708 or e-mail development@deltastate.edu.

Jutta Ferretti (center), of Shelby, was joined by Keith Fulcher (l), Executive Director of the Alumni-Foundation and Bill Lester (r), chair of the Art Department in announcing establishment of the Ferretti-Karnstedt Endowed Art Scholarship Fund.

Sports News

Sweet Success:

Clarion-Ledger tabs Delta State top story of 2006

Success is defined as the positive termination of attempts or endeavors. Over the past year, the Statesmen and Lady Statesmen of Delta State University have enjoyed a wealth of successes on and off the field. In its last edition of 2006, The Clarion Ledger sports department named Delta State's athletic successes as one of its "Top 10 Sports Stories of the Year."

"Last year was a special one here at Delta State," said Ronnie Mayers, Interim Director of Athletics. "The program claimed two GSC championships, four GSC West Division titles and eight teams competed in NCAA postseason play. It was certainly a banner year for Statesmen and Lady Statesmen athletics."

Delta State basketball ushered in 2006 with a bang, as Delta State amassed a combined 60-5 record during the year before making a run at the Gulf South Conference championship. On March 5, the top-ranked Statesmen defeated Montevallo and the 13th-ranked Lady Statesmen downed Henderson State to claim the men's and women's championships at the BancorpSouth Center in Tupelo. The Lady Statesmen would march to the NCAA Sweet 16, while the Statesmen would advance to the second round of the NCAA Tournament before ending the year.

Success on the court parlayed to numerous postseason accolades for the Statesmen and Lady Statesmen. Jasper Johnson, a 6-foot-8 senior forward from Hollandale, was named the NCAA Division II National Player of the Year, while Steve Rives was named the National Coach of the Year. Johnson also became the first Statesmen to be named Mississippi's top collegiate basketball player when he was presented with the CellularSouth Bailey Howell Trophy.

Legendary coach Steve Rives announced his retirement after 400 career wins and a handful of GSC championships. Rives guided the Statesmen for 20 years and retired as one of the most successful coaches in the history of the Gulf South Conference.

Lady Statesmen head coach Sandra Rushing claimed her first GSC Coach of the Year Award after leading DSU to the conference crown. Senior center Lawanda Stewart was named to the All-GSC First Team, while sophomore guard Jennifer Rushing was named to the Second Team. Stewart was also named to the Daktronics All-South Region Team.

Statesmen baseball and Lady Statesmen softball continued to make it an outstanding year in 2006. Delta State's unrelenting dominance of the GSC West in baseball continued for an unprecedented 13th-consecutive year. The Statesmen finished the season 37-17 overall and 20-4 in the GSC West. The Statesmen earned their 13th straight division title by three games over Southern Arkansas. Senior Bryan Williamson and junior Rusty Rayborn were named American Baseball Coaches Association All-Americans after guiding the Statesmen to the West Division crown.

The Lady Statesmen softball team also reached new heights last year. David Kuhn's squad racked up a 49-26 mark and repeated as GSC West Division champs. Kuhn's squad set a new school record for victories along the way. DSU's Alyse Hasty became the program's first-ever National Fastpitch Coaches Association First-Team All-American after being named the GSC West Player of the Year for a second straight season. Hasty also received the prestigious Gulf South Conference Commissioner's Trophy, awarded to the top female student-athlete in the GSC. Her trophy case grew even further as she was named a finalist for the NCAA's ultimate prize, Woman of the Year.

Statesmen football put an exclamation mark on 2006. Coach Rick Rhoades' squad delivered one of the greatest finishes in school history after posting a 12-3 record. Led by All-Americans Scott Eyster and Michael Eubanks, the Statesmen finished No.3 in the nation after marching to the NCAA semifinals. DSU reeled off three straight

road victories en route to the 12-3 finish.

Along the way, Scott Eyster, a 6-foot-3 senior from Hammond, La., became the all-time leading passer in the GSC and the second all-time in NCAA Division II history. Eyster garnered GSC Offensive Player of the Year honors, while Eubanks, who led the conference in sacks and tackles-for-loss, was tabbed the GSC Defensive Player of the Year. Eyster was also honored as a finalist for the CellularSouth Charles Conerly Trophy. It was Eyster's fourth-straight year to be named a finalist for Mississippi's top collegiate honor.

Not to be outdone, Delta State's swimming and diving teams torched the pool for top 20 finishes in the men's and women's NCAA National Championships. The Statesmen and Lady Statesmen tennis teams competed in NCAA Regionals, and DSU sophomore Kristin Williams helped pace the Lady Statesmen cross country team to a solid season finish. Williams' effort allowed the speedster to compete in the NCAA Regional in Memphis for a second straight year.

Delta State also saw a record year for academic achievement, as over 90 student-athletes garnered academic honors in 2006. Senior swimmers Tripp Davis, III and Kristin Balius were awarded prestigious NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarships, and the DSU swim team was named an All-Academic Team by the College Swimming Coaches Association.

"The dedication by our student-athletes in the classroom is second to none," Mayers attested. "Academic success is very important to our student-athletes, coaching staff and administration; and I think that commitment shows."

2007 Football Schedule

09/01	Jackson State	Jackson MS	6:00p
09/08	Open	TBA	TBA
09/15	Henderson State* PIG PICKIN'	Cleveland	6:00p
09/22	Ouachita Baptist	Arkadelphia, AR	TBA
09/27	Southern Arkansas	Cleveland	7:00p
10/06	Arkansas Tech	Cleveland	6:00p
10/11	Valdosta State*-TV	Valdosta, GA	7:30p
10/18	North Alabama-TV	Florence, AL	7:30p
10/27	West Georgia* HOMECOMING	Cleveland	6:00p
11/03	West Alabama*	Livingston, AL	TBA
11/10	Ark-Monticello*	Monticello, AR	TBA
11/17	NCAA Regionals	TBA	TBA

Mark your calendars today!
* Gulf South Conference Game

Statesmen football rank #3 in the nation

After capping one of the most successful seasons in Delta State University football history, the Statesmen (12-3) finished their 2006 season ranked No.3 in the final American Football Coaches Association Top 25 Poll. The No. 3 ranking is the second highest in the program's history. DSU finished the 2000 season No.1 after claiming the NCAA Championship.

The Statesmen's magical run through the playoffs came to a close with a 49-30 loss to eventual-national champion Grand Valley State University in the semifinals of the playoffs. DSU had claimed three-straight road wins before the setback, including victories over previously-unbeaten North Carolina Central and North Alabama. The 12 victories are the second most in school history.

06-07 NATIONAL POLL

1.	Grand Valley St. (Mich.) (28)	15-0
2.	Northwest Missouri St.	14-1
3.	**Delta State University**	12-3
4.	Bloomsburg (Pa.)	12-2
5.	Chadron St. (Neb.)	12-1

Roberts to lead Statesmen football program

Ron Roberts was introduced at a mid-January press conference as the new head football coach. He previously worked two seasons as the Statesmen's defensive coordinator.

Delta State University recently announced Ron Roberts as its 17th head football coach. The defensive coordinator for the Statesmen since 2005 and the architect of the one of the top defenses in the Gulf South Conference, Roberts assumed the reigns immediately from outgoing head coach Rick Rhoades, who stepped down after five seasons this past January.

Of the University's new hire, President Dr. John Hilpert offered, "Ron Roberts has demonstrated to everyone that he has what it takes to become head coach of one of the most competitive NCAA Division II football programs in the country.

Delta State is fortunate to have a coach on staff with the character and football savvy to take on the job as head coach of the Statesmen. I'm excited to welcome him to the position," Hilpert added.

In the last two seasons, Roberts has overseen the revitalization of the Statesman defense. Last season's march to the NCAA national semifinals saw the Statesmen leadd the Gulf South Conference in scoring defense (13.4 ppg), rush defense (83.7 ypg), and total defense (243.9 ypg). Delta State allowed just 26 touchdowns in 15 games and only surrendered more than 17 points twice.

The Statesmen concluded 2006 ranked ninth in the NCAA in total defense, 14th in rush defense, seventh in scoring defense, and 25th in pass efficiency defense. Michael Eubanks, an outside linebacker from Cleveland, was a unanimous All-American selection, and five Statesmen defenders were named to various All-South Region teams.

During his own playing days, Roberts was a two-time All-Conference selection at linebacker at the College of Sequoias in his native Visalia, Calif. He transferred to the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he helped guide them to the 1988 Gulf South Conference Championship. He graduated from UT-Martin with a degree in Sociology and later earned his master's degree in Education from the University of Memphis in 1992.

He is married to the former Didi Walker of Germantown, Tenn. The couple are the parents of three children; Reed (8), Reilly (6), and Ryan (4).

The Ron Roberts File:

Years	School	Position
2007-	Delta State University	Head Coach
2005-06	Delta State University	Defensive Coordinator
2004	Mt. Whitney (Calif.) HS	Head Coach
2003	Texas State University	Defensive Coordinator
1998-2002	Tusculum College	Asst. Head Coach/ Defensive Coordinator
1997	Greensboro College	Defensive Coordinator
1994-96	Burroughs (Calif.) HS	Head Coach
1992-93	Houston (Tenn.) HS	Defensive Coordinator

McClain to lead DSU athletic department

Jeremy McClain knows Delta State University, and moreover, knows what it takes to succeed at Delta State University. In the end, that knowledge earned McClain the keys to the athletic department, as Delta State officially named him its next director of athletic at a press conference held recently inside the Chadwick-Dickson Field House.

Following a national search process, McClain was selected as the "recommended finalist" by the Delta State athletic director search committee, chaired by Dr. Rose Strahan. McClain then participated in two open meetings – one on campus with faculty, staff and students; and one at the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce with interested community members – in which, he introduced himself, presenting his resume and vision for the Delta State athletic department, before answering questions from those in attendance.

"Jeremy has shined consistently throughout this process. He has shown tremendous character, readiness and capability; and ultimately, he proved he was the right person for the job," Delta State University President, Dr. John M. Hilpert offered. "I am confident he will lead the Delta State athletic department with diligence and drive. We look forward to enjoying continued successes under Jeremy's leadership."

Currently the director of development with the Delta State Foundation, McClain has been associated with athletics nearly his entire life. A standout two-sport athlete at Houlka High School, McClain turned heads with his prowess on the baseball diamond and earned a full scholarship to attend Delta State University.

An ace for the Statesmen pitching staff from 1996-1999, McClain still holds many of Delta State's career pitching marks, including most appearances (69), most victories (45), most strikeouts (324) and most innings pitched (363.1). His perfect 15-0 season in 1999 earned the prolific hurler All-American, All-Region and All-Conference accolades, as well as team MVP honors.

The hard-throwing right-hander was drafted by the Boston Red Sox organization in May 1999 after he earned his bachelor's of business administration. McClain pursued his dreams of playing professional baseball for the next five years, completing stints with the Red Sox (1999 – 2000), Jackson Diamondkats (2000 – 2001), Nashua Pride (2001), San Angelo Colts (2001) and Jackson Senators (2002 – 2003).

Although focused on making it to the next level, McClain remained realistic of his chances and completed work on his master's degree in business administration at Delta State in 2002. Also during that time, he worked as an account executive with the Jackson Senators.

Delta State University President Dr. John M. Hilpert presents Jeremy McClain with "a key to the building," after McClain was named director of athletics recently at a press conference held on campus.

He contends, "If you can sell minor league baseball, you can sell anything. That experience was invaluable in so many ways, and I'm thankful for the opportunity."

From there, McClain hung up the spikes and became a marketing representative for Federated Insurance Company in Calhoun City, a firm he would stay with from Nov. 2003 – Nov. 2006. During his tenure, he operated the most profitable territory in a six-state region for two consecutive years, while also improving a two-year loss ratio from 20.4 percent to 3.3 percent.

This past fall, the opportunity to return to Delta State presented itself and McClain did not hesitate, accepting the offer to become the director of development for Delta State's Foundation. During his tenure, the Foundation has raised $1.4 million.

Of his newest position as director of athletics, McClain said, "I would like to thank Dr. Hilpert, Dr. Strahan and the search committee for their time and efforts during this process. Giving of their time to serve on this committee is a prime example of the important role athletics plays on the Delta State campus.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for me and my family," he continued. "A great foundation has been laid here at Delta State University, and it is my desire to continue to build upon that foundation. We will graduate student-athletes and prepare them for their futures. We will continue to be one of the most successful athletic programs in the nation, and we will continue to strive for growth. We will not slow down."

McClain is married to the former Christie Cannon of Calhoun City. The couple has one son, Cannon (2) and are expecting a baby girl this summer.

To contact Jeremy, please call 662-846-4300 or e-mail jmcclain@deltastate.edu
Visit gostatesmen.com for the latest DSU Athletics news.

Rushing earns 100th victory

Head women's basketball coach Sandra Rushing has already topped two career milestones this season. On January 20, with a 55-44 victory over Christian Brothers University, Rushing earned her 100th victory as head coach of the Lady Statesmen. Five days later on January 25, at Arkansas Tech University, Rushing topped 250 career wins with a 60-55 victory over the Golden Suns.

In five seasons at Delta State University, the Biloxi native has amassed a 102-34 record with one Gulf South Conference title. In her 17 seasons as a collegiate head coach, Rushing is 252-231.

Rushing with her team.

Teague resigns

Dr. Brad Teague resigned from his post as director of athletics at Delta State in late January to accept Division I University of Central Arkansas' offer to lead its athletic department. A graduate of Delta State, Teague headed the athletic department for four years.

Dr. Brad Teague

WITH THE CLASSES

43 Dr. Arthur Richter, of Greenwood, was the founder of the Dental Hygiene School at Mississippi Delta Community College in Moorhead in 2002. He was recently honored by having the lab named for him.

Richter

49 Jane Dunlap, of Cleveland, received the S.E. Kossman Award. It is the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce's highest award.

52 Dean Spradling, of Clarksdale, received Delta State University's Delta Region Champions award at the Third Annual Community Recognition Luncheon.

Spradling

53 William "W.S." Donald, of Southaven, was honored by having the Horn Lake High School track and field complex named for him. He coached there from 1954-64. In 1984, Donald was named National Coach of the Year for boys track. In 1990 he was named Memphis City Coach of the Year. In 1999 he was inducted into the Delta State Coaches Hall of Fame.

Donald

Griffis

54 S. Bryce Griffis, of Starkville, was honored with the opening of a new residence hall bearing his name at Mississippi State University.

Jack Holmes, of Kosciusko, a 35 year veteran of Holmes Community College and vice president of the Grenada Center was named HCC's Outstanding Alumnus of the Year during homecoming activities.

55 William "Bill" Ray, of Harriesburg, received Delta State University's School of Nursing Visionary Award at the Third Annual Community Recognition Luncheon.

Ray

61 John McElroy ('73), of Columbia, was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame at Pearl River Community College. He played football at Delta State University from 1959-1961.

Walter Herbison, of Ridgeland, published a book "Head Games" about improving sports performance.

62 Ned Mitchell, of Cleveland, received Delta State University's College of Business Outstanding Business Person of the Year Award at the Third Annual Community Recognition Luncheon.

Mitchell

64 Dr. James Pate, of Tupelo, published his latest book *When This Evil War is Over: The Correspondence of the Francis Family, 1860-1865.*

Pate

66 David Rousaville retired from the Department of Human Services as supervisor of child support services after four decades of services.

68 Larry Therrell, of Brandon, was inducted into the inaugural class of Leake Academy's Athletic Hall of Fame.

69 Norris Ashley, of Ingomar, became Mississippi's winningest boy's basketball coach with his 905th career win.

William Willard, of Clarksdale, was elected Chancery Court Judge for Coahoma and Bolivar counties in the November election.

Williard

70 Frank Beckman, of N. Richland Hills, TX, is celebrating 20 years with Bell Helicopter.

Jeff Bogue III, of Germantown TN, is director of student and alumni affairs at the University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy in Memphis.

Kathy Hardy Rhodes, of Franklin TN, released her new book *Muscadine Lines: A Southern Anthology,* a gathering of short fiction, essays, and poems.

Rhodes

71 John H. Walker, of Bogalusa, LA, is the General Manager and Managing Editor of *The Daily News.*

Charles "Chuck" Lauderdale, of Pelham, GA, is the utilities director for the city of Pelham.

Lauderdale

72 Clyde Lindley is the director of academic affairs at the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science in Columbus.

Charles Jennings, is an artist residing in Hazelhurst. He was commissioned to draw a picture for former First Lady Barbara Bush. He recently donated one of his drawings to the DSU South Central Alumni Chapter.

Jennings

William N. "Bill" LaForge, of Oak Hill, VA, was installed as president of the Federal Bar Association at the organization's annual conference. An endowed scholarship has been established at Delta State in LaForge's name in honor of his year as president of the Federal Bar.

LaForge

73 Elizabeth Malatesta Scarbrough is the new principal at St. Elizabeth Elementary in Clarksdale.

Ronnie Tubertini, is president and CEO of SouthGroup Insurance and Financial Services in Jackson. He was recently featured in the *Mississippi Business Journal.*

74 Phelix Raymond "Butch" Stevens, Jr. of Water Valley, is President - elect of the Mississippi Council of Administrators of Special Education.

Stevens

Paul Artman, Jr. of Greenville, is principal of St. Joseph Catholic School.

75 George "Bubba" Bolm, of Vicksburg, was named director of the Old Court House Museum.

Fred E. Carl, Jr., of Greenwood, was named Outstanding Alumnus of the Year at Delta State University's 2006 Homecoming.

Carl

Carlton D. Campbell, of Gillette, WY, was selected as Wyoming Association for Career and Technical Education's Educator of the year.

76 Larry Dean Meade, of Conyers, GA, retired from General Morors after 30 years. He is now a Business Education Instructor at Forest Park High School in GA.

Sonny Clay, of Tuttle, OK, is employed with Great Divide Consulting Firm (associated with the oil industry) in Rock Springs, WY.

77 Ralph Moore, of Jackson, was inducted into the McComb School District Alumni Hall of Fame. Moore was the first DSU freshman to be named most valuable basketball player.

78 Hal Sterling, of Summit, is the Southwest Mississippi Community College's marching band director.

79 Dr. Edward Lee Childress, Superintendent of Corinth Public Schools, was elected chairman of the Public Employment Retirement System of Mississippi.

Julie Quave Sanders is the Coordinator of Advanced Academic Studies for the Allied Independent School District located in southwest Houston, TX.

81 Tucker Mitchell, of Ridgeland, was recently selected for membership in the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel at Copeland, Cook, Taylor and Bush, P.A. Mitchell was also recently named as one of The Best Lawyers in America in the specialty of Insurance Law.

Mitchell

83 Michael Enriquez, of Batavia, OH, is serving as President of the Board of Education of Batavia Local School District.

Nancy Loome, of Clinton, won the Parent of the Year award presented by the state Board of Education.

84 Carla Brownlee Martin is in private practice as a family therapist in Murfreesboro, TN.

85 Edward Pope, of Cleveland, is Regional Director for Quick Cash Financial Services and Chief Executive Officer of Community Bridge Builders, Inc. He also is the International Director of Sigma Beta Clubs of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

Pope

Keith C. King, of Cleveland, is serving as President of the Catfish Farmers of Mississippi.

Shelia Washington, of Greenville, is the Administrative Assistant for the 21st Century Community of Learning Center and President of the Greenville Association of Educators.

Dr. Tim Mills is the Professor of Accountancy at Eastern Illinois University.

Dr. Steve Stanford ('86), Vice President for Administration and Government Relations at Mississippi College, was recently installed as the 2007 President of the Clinton Chamber of Commerce.

Dale Douglas Wigginton, along with her husband, led the Tupelo High School band and color guard to first place in the Mississippi Band Masters Association Competition.

86 Katrina Myricks, of Madison, was named the Community College Business Educator of the Year. She is a professor of business at Holmes Community College in Ridgeland.

Terri Ferguson is the business/education editor of the *Delta Democrat Times* newspaper in Greenville.

Rebecca Flowers Wilkinson, of Jackson, was named Secondary Art Educator of the Year.

88 Britt Stender, of Westerville, OH, is the State Sales Director for American Family Insurance with 200 agents and district managers reporting to him.

Burns Strider, a native of Grenada, is the policy director in the House of Representatives Democratic Caucus in Washington D.C. Previously Strider was the spokesperson for former 4th District U.S. Rep. Ronnie Shows. Strider recently joined Senator Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign team.

Trudy Fountain, of Lantana, TX, was promoted to Senior Vice President and Deputy Group Counsel at Affiliated Computer Services, Inc., in Atlanta, GA.

Kalen Graves, of Batesville, was selected to serve as guidance counselor and junior high principal at Magnolia Heights School.

89 Dr. David McDaniel, of Indianola, was named to the Indianola advisory board at Planters Bank & Trust.

Kathleen McClain Jenkins, of Natchez, is the Superintendent of Natchez National Historical Park.

Jenkins

90 Reggie Harris, is District Recruiting Coordinator for Hinds Community College and sponsors "Hinds Connection." He is a former member of the DSU football team and a native of Vicksburg.

Harris

91 Billy Ray Burt, of Southaven, opened Pala Casino Resort & Spa, the first Vegas style casino in southern CA. He is now Director of Marketing at the Great Kiowa Indian Nation casino in southern OK.

Rhett Nelson, of Cleveland, has recently been accepted to the St. James University School of Medicine on the island of Bonaire in the Caribbean.

92 Bill Flemings, of Edwards, has been named principal at Clairborne Educational Foundation.

Jeffrey Paul Arnold is president of Design Source, Inc., a commercial and residential design group in Brandon.

Tracy Shute Vogel was promoted to Mortgage Accounting Officer at Trustmark Bank in Jackson.

John A. Hatcher, of Booneville, won the position of Chancery Court Judge, Place One, for the First Judicial District.

Charles "Tripp" Francis, III, of Madison, has been elected president of the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Health Care Association.

93 Dr. Julie Massie Clark is chair of the Aviation Management and Business Department at Middle Georgia College in Cochran, GA.

94 Anthony Todd Hubbard, of Washington, D.C., is Regional Radio Executive for the Associated Press.

Hubbard

Kraig A. Smith is a Chaplain for the USAF and is currently stationed at F.E. Warren AFB in Cheyenne, WY.

Susan Gilbert, of Indianola, was named marketing and sales representative of Mid-Delta Home Health & Hospice.

95 William "Bill" Ashley, of Pontotoc, is the Chairman of the Business Administration Department at Hinds Community College in Raymond.

96 Marti Shannon Green, of Olive Branch, was promoted to manager of the Lease and Portfolio Services with Trammell Crow Company of Memphis.

Kathryn Bertin, of Atlanta, GA, is Marketing Manager for Strafford Publications.

97 Jessie Lenard Whitley, of Greenville, was promoted to Assistant Vice President of Trustmark Bank's Mortgage Loan Department.

Whitley

Wendy T. Travis was named Office and Branch Manager of Mid-Delta Home Health & Hospice in Indianola.

Linda Nicole Stringfellow, of Greenwood, is director of the Mississippi Delta Service Corps/Americorps VISTA Program at Delta State University's Center for Community and Economic Development.

Ryan Travis, of Cordova TN, is a pilot and first officer for Federal Express.

Teresa E. Scruggs, of Sumrall, was named STAR Teacher by the Mississippi Economic Council's Swayze Educational Foundation.

Stacey Flores, of Phoenix, AZ, is the Manager for

US Airways Express.

Shaw

Dameon Shaw was selected as one of two Mississippi Mayors to serve on a panel at the Tri-State Leadership Summit held in Tunica. He is mayor of Shaw.

98 Brindley "Lee" Kuiper, of Edwards, is the Assistant Vice President at Trustmark Bank in Jackson. He is the manager of the PC Services Group.

Steven Handley, of Jackson, was named Hinds County Schools Superintendent.

Glorioso

99 Stephen Anthony Glorioso, of Cleveland, was named Director of the Park Commission in Cleveland after serving as Assistant Director for seven years.

00 George Crump Miller, Jr., is Director of Major Gifts at the Pi Kappa Alpha Educational Foundation in Memphis.

Miller

Pamela Jossell, of Clarksdale, was promoted to comptroller of Clarksdale Public Utilities.

Vincent Henry Ricotta, of Flowood, is vice president of State Bank and Trust Company at the Ridgeland location.

Carlos Lloyd, of Greenville, has joined Cooper Power Systems as plant manager for the Lumberton operation.

Ronda L. Anderson, of Cleveland, was chosen as one of Mahogany Magazine's Top 40 women under 40 and received a $10,000 entrepreneurial grant. She is the owner of Inspiration by Design.

Strawbridge

William Ryan Strawbridge, of Madison, is Vice President of Commercial Lending at Madison County Bank.

Dr. Jeanne Williams Holland, of Starkville, graduated from Mississippi State University with a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction.

Bill Durham, of Clarksdale, has released a CD entitled, "My Kind of Music," a mix of classic country, rockabilly and Southern roots music.

Michael Christopher Maddock, of Brandon, received his wings and will be flying Harrier jets for the Marine Corp.

Guy Mitchell Erwin, of Collierville, TN, was promoted to Manager - Financial Reporting at FedEx Freight Headquarters.

Shana Robison, of Batesville, was named South Panola School District's Teacher of the Year for 2005-2006.

Brian Jordan, of Jackson, is a Financial Service Representative for Regions Bank.

Klinck

Thomas Christopher Klinck, of Grenada, tennis coach at Grenada High School was named Mississippi's Tennis Coach of the Year by the US Tennis Association.

Russell

Roger Dale Russell, of Greenwood, was elected president of the Delta Human Resource Managers Association. Russell is employed with Viking Range Corp.

01 Jason Lunceford, of Clarksdale, is branch manager of AmSouth Bank in Clarksdale.

Crystal Bentley Sims is the Life Science Instructor at Cossatot Community College in DeQueen, AR.

Jami Schrader Truitt, of Greenwood, was promoted to assistant vice president of accounting at State Bank & Trust Co.

Courtney McMaster Austin, of Cleveland, is the director of the Healthy Community Program at Delta State University.

Hunter

Jennifer Hunter, formerly of Cleveland, was featured on HGTV airing of "I Want That Bath", with her bathroom designs, December 2, 2006. Hunter is a designer in Destin, FL.

02 Stephanie Eddleman is an English faculty member at Harding University in Searcy, AR.

Christy Bramlett is an Orthobiologics Specialist with Medtronic, where she oversees Certifications and FDA registration for Tissue Banks.

Valorie Kimbrell, of Southaven, was promoted to Branch Manager of Kelly Scientific Resources in Memphis.

03 Joshua C. Vincent, formerly of Indianola, is employed with the South Carolina Arts Commission.

Heather Dudula Lloyd, of Indianola, is a family nurse practitioner at Greenville Clinic.

04 Judy Couey, of Clinton, is the Assistant Superintendent of Starkville Public Schools.

Melissa S. Love, of Goodman, is the Assistant Director of Public Information at Holmes Community College.

Boyd

Rhonda Boyd, of Cleveland, was named the Administrative Assistant of the Delta Music Institute at Delta State University.

Marcellus Chatman, of Mound Bayou, was named Mississippi State Hospital's August Employee of the Month for Direct Care Services.

William Edwin Edgar, of Yazoo City, is an associate producer for the POWER 107.1 FM/WELZ 1460 AM radio and the outdoors columnist for the *Yazoo Herald* and the *Madison County Journal.*

James Andrew "Drew" Owens, of Cordova, TN, is a commercial pilot with US Airways Express based in Manassas, VA.

Lipscomb

Parker Lipscomb ('06), of Greenville, is a State Farm Life Insurance Representative with Andy Daniels Agency in Indianola. Lipscomb completed his Masters degree at DSU in 2006.

West

Josh West completed his Masters degree at Mississippi State University and accepted a position with Parkway Properties, a commercial real estate investment trust in Jackson.

Jones & Reed

05 Matthew Pierce Jones, of Greenwood, and Chris Reed, of Rosedale, completed law enforcement training at the Police Academy in Jackson and are employed with Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks in Holmes County.

Edwards

Alkie Edwards is Oxfam America's Humanitarian Coordinator for the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Oxfam is a global non-profit organization that works toward strengthening communities.

06 Geani Clark, of Boyle, is financial services specialist of AmSouth Bank in Clarksdale.

Merry Claire Ballard, of Jackson, was elected vice president of the School of Health Related Professions at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Iris Hurt, of Greenwood, is the assistant principal at Amanda Elzy High School.

Conico

Cathy Haynes Conico, of Cleveland, received the first diploma at the December 2006 graduation. She earned a 4.0 GPA.

Wedding Bells

All dates are in 2006 unless otherwise indicated.

Kathy Jackson '97 to David Loyd Smith on March 4.

Little

Megan Allison Little '04 to Joshua Kyle Cunningham '07, on March 11, in Cleveland.

Christy Dale Ellington to Wayne Shannon Orr, III '00, of Memphis, on April 8.

Ellington

Sarah Lynn Consul '95 to Douglas A. Calkins, in Las Vegas, NV, on May 9.

Courtney Marianne McMaster '01 to Thomas Cory Austin, of Cleveland, on May 20.

Consul

Allison Kitrell Roncali to John David Hawkins (attended) on June 5.

Amanda Louise Dunnagan '05 to Christopher Scott May, on June 10.

McMaster

Dorie Camille Hertlein '91 to Donnie Kisner, of Tupelo, on June 29.

Marilyn Marie Bland (attended) to Mason Alexander Bassett on July 1.

Dunnagan

Catherine Louise Bishop '05 to Joshua Christian Vincent '03 in Folly Beach, SC, on July 7.

Carrie Davis to Matthew Adam Edgar '03, on July 8.

Ann Elizabeth "Beth" Bailey '89 to Matthew Vanderloo on July 10.

Holly Cates '01 to Kevin Lyle Tharp '04, of Cleveland, on July 15.

Cates

Chassity "Lee" Deerman to Jason McArthur Whittington on July 22.

Kristie Perkins '02 to Benjamin Hogue, of Rome, GA, on July 29.

Jamie Leigh Boyd '04 to Christopher Whitney on August 12.

Reynolds

Jennifer Brooke Reynolds '01 to Casey Brandon Manning '04 on August 12, 2006.

Starr Mone't Parker '03 & '06 to Harrison Lee Austin, Jr., on August 24.

Parker

Vicki Lynn Ellis '99 to Christopher Michael Lindsey, of Southaven, on September 2.

Candice Elizabeth Corbett (attended) to Brenton Michael William of Greenville on September 9.

Margaret Jane Stone to John Blake Hilburn '04, of Oxford, on September 9.

Stone

Brook Elizabeth Turner '05 to Blakely Malone Newsom '03, of Cleveland, on September 9.

Katherine Gee Waggoner '04 to Chad Stribling, of Clinton, on September 9.

Waggoner

Kristen Brooke Sherron '01 to Billy Raymond Sears, Jr. '03, on September 30, in Cleveland.

Era Melissa Ware '02 to Shawn Neal Harris, on October 28, in Ruleville.

Blackwood

Kim Mosco Blackwood '91 to Dr. Nathan Wade Buehring, of Cleveland, on October 28.

Lisa Delane Sudduth '03 to James Wilkes Bradham '01, on December 2, in Clarksdale.

Lindsey Lee Farris '04 to Brett Cannon Byrd '05, on December 16.

Feaster

Natalie Kay Feaster '05 to Michael Christopher Maddock '00, on December 23.

Pamela Cecelia Ward '75 to William Thomas Browder, on December 9, in Memphis.

Anna Marie Sledge '05 to Charles Leighton Janes '02, of Cleveland, on December 16.

Andrea Elizabeth Atchley '03 to Daniel Johnson Rives, on December 16, in Indianola.

Jayme Elizabeth Jennings '05 to Jesse Daniel Cother, on December 16, in Clarksdale.

Grayson Elizabeth Verner '06 to Andy Dale Adams, on December 16, in Leland.

Janice Marie Johnson '99 to Ronald Terrell Ford, on December 31, in Dunleith, GA.

In Memoriam

All deaths are in 2006 unless otherwise indicated.

Ellen Cassels Tabor '30, of Gloster, on October 15, 2005.
Charles Maxwell Griffin, Sr. '52, of Immokalee, FL, on January 23.
Dr. Howard J. Aylward '39, of Aliso Wiejo, CA, on June 8. He was a retired ear, nose, throat and allergy doctor and was the first Delta State University student to attend medical school.
Jim Lewis (attended DSU), on July 19.
Helen Frances Clay Caldwell '38, of Hattiesburg, on July 26.
William A. Carr '62, of New Albany, on August 6.
Pauline Lucille Watson '41, of Shelby, on August 12.
Anita Hyde Dawson '75, of Lucedale, on August 27.
Dr. Robert N. Walters, of Hattiesburg, on August 29.
Thomas A. Jones, III '71, of New Albany, on September 4.
Margaret Holt Gunn, of Cleveland, on September 8.
Charles H. Lipe '54, of Memphis, TN, on September 12.
Robyn Michelle Mosley Gee, of Indianola, on September 12.
Mamie J Tucker '54, of Aberdeen, on September 20.
Dr. Charles Wagoner, Associate Professor of Economics at Delta State, on September 30.
Barbara Bush Creekmore '39, of Clarksdale, on October 7.
Pauline Fink Adelson '59, of Merigold, on October 16.
Jerry Ferrell Fortenbery, of Cleveland, on October 18.
Robert Michael Langley, of Oxford, on October 21.
Nell Kathryn Cleveland May, of Madison, on November 7.
John R. Tabb '56, of Raymond, on November 8. He was Delta State University's Outstanding Alumnus in 1989 and retired as Executive Director of Mississippi Department of Transportation in 1993.
Mary J. Whittington, of Greenwood, on November 14.
Claude Abel '50, of Greenville, on November 16. He was a U.S. Army veteran and also served 30 years in the National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves.
Nick Siciliano '06, of Cleveland, on December 3.
Eugenia B. Rutland '29, of Lafayette, LA, on December 5. She was a graduate of Cleveland High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Delta State University. She obtained her Master's Degree in Education at Louisiana State University.
Paul H. Anderson '78, of Rolling Fork, on December 7.
Ruthel Turner Poe '39, of Cleveland, December 15.

Baby Statesmen New Arrivals

Franklin Thomas Johnson Keady Wilson Taylor McCaslin Cooper Randolph Mitchell Cohen Hughes

William Duncan to Mr. & Mrs. Heath Franklin (Katherine Anne Erwin '02), of Greenville, on December 5, 2005.

Jacob McKay to Mr. & Mrs. Michael Thomas (Kelli O'Brien '94), of Lexington, on December 31, 2005.

Tristan Wester to Dr. & Mrs. Daryl Lance Johnson, DDS '90 (Susan "Scottie" Williamson '89), of Cleveland, on January 20.

Jackson Douglas to Mr. & Mrs. Sean Douglas Keady '96, of Gulfport, on February 13.

Cathryn Keeley to Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Kane Wilson '95 (Candace Celeste Embrey '97), of Southaven, on February 13.

Hubert "Trey" Dwaine, III to Dr. & Mrs. Hubert D. Taylor, II '00 (Tiffany Scott '00), of Grenada, on February 16.

James Beckett to Mr. & Mrs. James Christopher McCaslin '00 (Jennifer Britt), of Clarksdale, on March 20.

Henry Daniel to Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Cooper '01 (Mary Gaston '02), of Macon GA, on March 30.

Jesse Isaiah to Mr. & Mrs. William James Randolph, Jr. (Jennifer Bain '94), of Brooklyn, NY, on April 2.

Cooper to Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Mitchell (Emily Cooper '99), of Madison, on April 24.

Avery Elizabeth to Mr. & Mrs. William Monroe Lewis (Dana Mobley '00), of Jackson, on May 22.

Mason Paige to Mr. & Mrs. Owen McLellan '98 (Natalie Sykes '97), of West, on June 16.

Benjamin Alden to Mr. & Mrs. Warren Bell '96 (Jamie Holeman), of Duncan, on July 11.

Morgan Alyce to Mr. & Mrs. Brett Marchant '99 (Shaun Tackett '98), of Cleveland, on July 12.

Parker Lyn to Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Key Cohen '93 (Andrea Broadway '93), of Brooksville, on June 14.

Kendall Lynne to Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Hughes (Carla McMaster '86), of Flower Mound,TX, on July 18.

Peyton Alexander to Mr. & Mrs. Scott L. Knight (Michelle N. Knight '98), of Saltillo, on June 19.

Olivia Layne to Mr. & Mrs. Guy Mitchell Erwin '99 (Traci Childers attended DSU), of Collierville, TN, on June 20.

Andrew Garrison to Mr. & Mrs. Christopher R. Langley '94 (Amy Sanders), of Horn Lake, on June 27.

Anthony Caden to Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Whitworth (Gwen Calhoun '91), of Walls, on July 19.

Walker Brantley to Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Robey '99 (Ginger Moore '01), of Batesville, on July 25.

Noah Nickels to Mr. & Mrs. John Frank Coker '99 (Margaret "Meg" Taylor '02), of Walls, on August 14.

George Morgan to Mr. & Mrs. George Russell Green '98 (Amy Morgan '97), of Cleveland, on August 15.

Hamilton Reed to Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Lem Holman '98 (Carolyn Ann Collier '98), of Cleveland, on August 17.

Anna Siage to Mr. & Mrs. William Blaine "Billy" Finnie '00 (Memorie McCreary '02), of Shaw, on August 19.

Samantha Michelle to Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Boyd Thomas '05 (Sarah Thomas), of Cleveland, on August 20.

Havens Thomas to Mr. & Mrs. Eric Fioranelli (Lee Anne Havens '04), of Cleveland, on August 23.

Madeline Alexandra to Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hampton "Jody" Holland '99 (Jeanne Williams '00), of Starkville, on August 26.

Anna Grace to Mr. & Mrs. Adrian Britt (Jeanette Byrne '03), of Natchez, on August 28.

Sylvana Michele to Mr. & Mrs. Sylvanus Maurice Burgess '96 (MarShell Willard '96), of Pine Bluff, AR, on August 28.

Knight Erwin Langley Coker Green Thomas Britt Burgess Vassel Havens Morgan Quinton

Clark Bland Coleman Brown Simpson

Alyssa Grace to Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Vassel (Tana Pittman '89), of Clarksdale, on August 30.

Addyson Claire to Mr. & Mrs. Craig Morgan '02 (Jessica Morgan), of Southaven, on September 14.

Elizabeth Gray to Mr. & Mrs. Lee Havens, Jr. '99 (Emily Ratliff '98), of Cleveland, on September 15.

Isabella Marisol to Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Rivino (Cecilia Lopez '00), of Olive Branch, on September 16.

William Tyler to Dr. & Mrs. William Neil Quinton '99 (Crystal Coleman), of Cleveland, on September 20.

Chaney Marie to Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Jackson Clark '97 (Serena Rasberry '97), of Kosciusko, on October 3.

Rachel Frances to Dr. & Mrs. Robert C. Tibbs, III (Shelley Scarborough '96), of Cleveland, on October 10.

Landrie Grace to Mr.& Mrs. Charles Bradford Bland '96, of Southaven, on October 10.

Saylor Ann to Mr. & Mrs. William Chance Coleman '98 (Chrisann Coleman '97), of Lakeland, TN, on October 25.

Griffin Montague to Mr. & Mrs. Michael Montague Brown (Jamie Giles '87), of Memphis, TN, on October 31.

William Michael, III to Mr. & Mrs. William Michael Simpson II '00 (Allison Carter), of Madison, on November 6.

To announce your
newborn, wedding, job change or other significant event
in your life, send an email to
alumni@deltastate.edu

Or mail to
Box 3104,
Cleveland, MS 38733

Please include a photo and detailed information.

Complete the form below to become an active member of the DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!

Class of or years attended _____

Name: _____

Nickname: _____ Birthdate: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Employer: _____

Job Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone (H): _____ (W): _____ (C): _____

For our tax records, please use your full legal name.

Pleach check the type membership that best suits your needs:

☐ 1 year ($20 single, $30 joint) ☐ Life ($300 single, $400 joint)

I would also like to join the following alumni groups:

☐ Accounting ($10) ☐ Aviation ($5) ☐ Music ($5)

☐ Art ($5) ☐ Black ($5) ☐ Nursing ($5)

☐ Athletic ($10) ☐ Family & Consumer Science (H. Ec.) ($5)

Total amount enclosed: _____

☐ Check ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard

Card #: _____

Name: (exactly as it appears on card) _____

Signature: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Life dues can be paid in installments of $50 each year.

Make Checks payable to: DSU Alumni Association
Mail to: Box 3104, Cleveland, MS 38733

SHOW YOUR PRIDE IN DSU

Purchase a logo car tag!

Alumni Update

What better way to let your classmates know where you are and what you are doing than through the "Alumni Updates?"

Tell us about yourself: Recently married? Taken a new job? Been promoted? Changed addresses? Welcomed new children?

Name _____

Maiden Name _____

Address _____

Phone(s): (H): _____ (W): _____ (C): _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Graduation Year or Year attended: _____

Date of Birth _____ E-mail address _____

Here's my update: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Mail to: Alumni Office, Box 3104,
DSU, Cleveland, Mississippi 38733
or Fax to (662) 846-4713 or e-mail to alumni@deltastate.edu

DSU alumni meet annually for the "Ole Grads" Reunion at JP Coleman State Park near Iuka. The next event is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 3. Pictured are: Janeil Pickett Stutts, of Booneville, Miss.; Maggie Garrett, of Red Lodge, Mont.; Kay Davis, of Edmond, Okla.; Denece Rozzell, of Quitman, Miss; and Dr. Elaine Fields, of Pensacola, Fla.

Members of the steering committee for the Black Alumni Scholarship Reunion pose with key note speaker, Gwendolyn Sykes. Sykes is Chief Financial Officer for NASA and was named by Black Enterprise as one of the 50 Most Powerful Black Women in Business. Pictured are: Edward Pope, chairman; George Boston, Gwen Sykes, Melvin Stimage, and Rodney Henderson.

The North Mississippi Alumni Chapter met in Tupelo. Officers and planning committee members included: Front: Cindy McNair, Joby Collins, president; Janeil Stutts Back: Brad Prewitt, Janice Fleming, Henry Outlaw, Nob Peek, Linda Dennis, Andy Pearson, Gene Boggs, and Mary Wilson.

Newly elected officers for the Memphis Alumni Chapter are: Beth Robinson Price '87; Elizabeth McGovern Malone '90; Kathleen McGovern Carter '90

2007-2008
Annual Membership

BOLOGNA
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
Delta State University

Are you an Annual Member?

Andy, Karen, Anna and Elizabeth Daniels of Indianola, MS

We're Annual Members!

"My family and I enjoy all of the events at the BPAC. It is really remarkable that we have a venue of this caliber that offers such a wonderful variety of shows. BPAC is definitely one of the treasures of the Delta."

-Andy Daniels

For More Information contact 662.846.4625
www.bolognapac.com

Delta State University congratulates

David Abney and his employer, United Parcel Services, Inc. (UPS) on their recent recognition by the Mississippi legislature.

David Abney poses with the Mississippi legislators responsible for authoring the Senate and House of Representative resolutions honoring him and his employer, United Parcel Service. All sported Delta State baseball caps. From left: Sen. Billy Hewes, of Gulfport; Sen. Bob Dearing, of Natchez; Rep. Percy Watson, of Hattiesburg; Sen. Willie Simmons, of Cleveland; Rep. Jack Gadd, of Hickory Flat; David Abney, Rep. David Norquist, of Cleveland; Rep. Linda Coleman, of Mound Bayou; Rep. Willie Perkins, of Greenwood.

UPS 100 Celebrating 100 Years of Service

More inside. Page 6

Congratulations David & UPS!

Delta State University
Box 3141
Cleveland, MS 38733
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Burlington, VT
Permit No. 19